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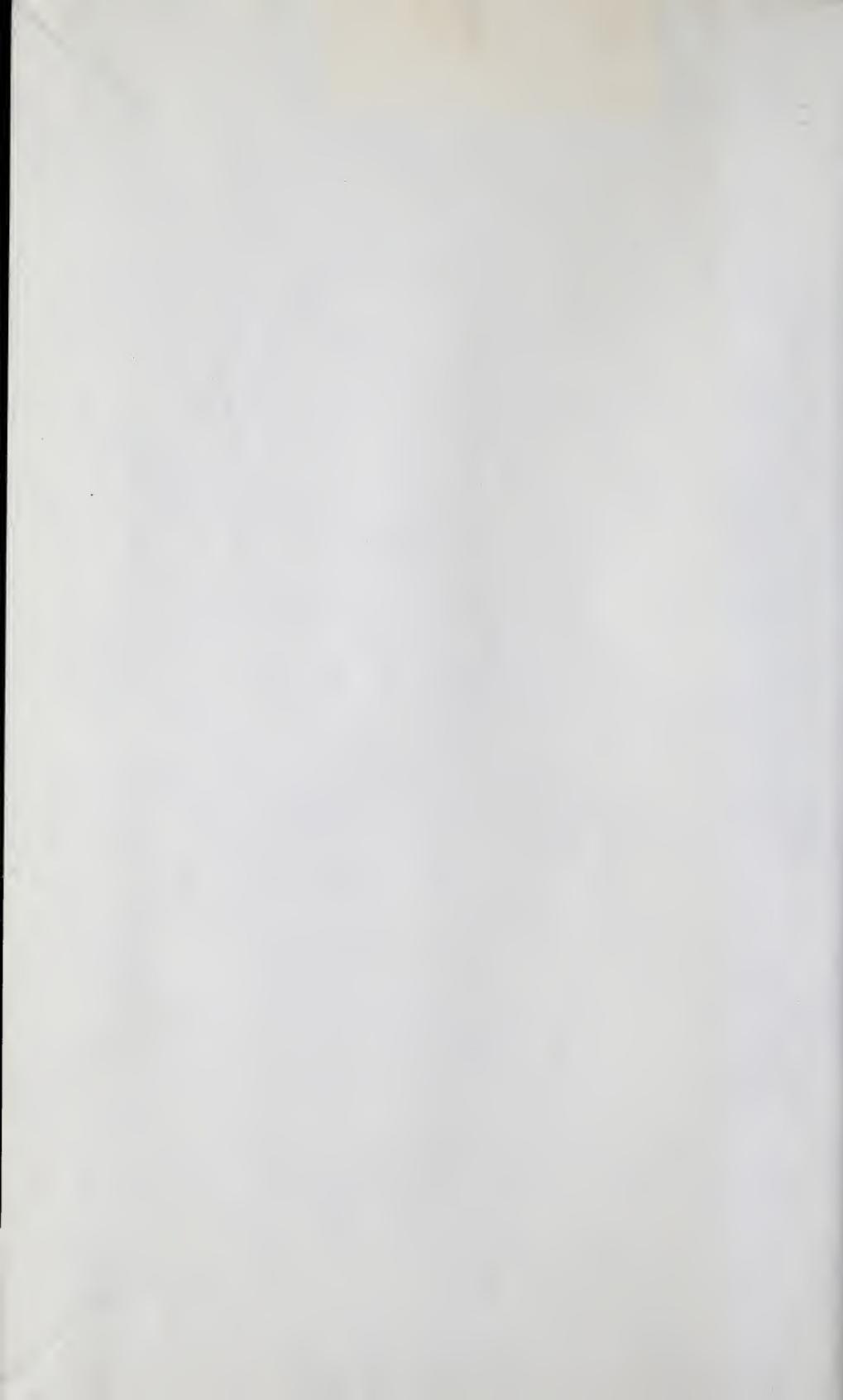
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# Vignettes of Portsmouth

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*Being representations of N. H.*  
**Divers Historic Places**  
in Old Portsmouth  
Done by  
**Helen Pearson**

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*With Descriptive Text Arranged by*  
**Harold Hotchkiss Bennett**

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Published by  
**Helen Pearson and Harold Hotchkiss Bennett**  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

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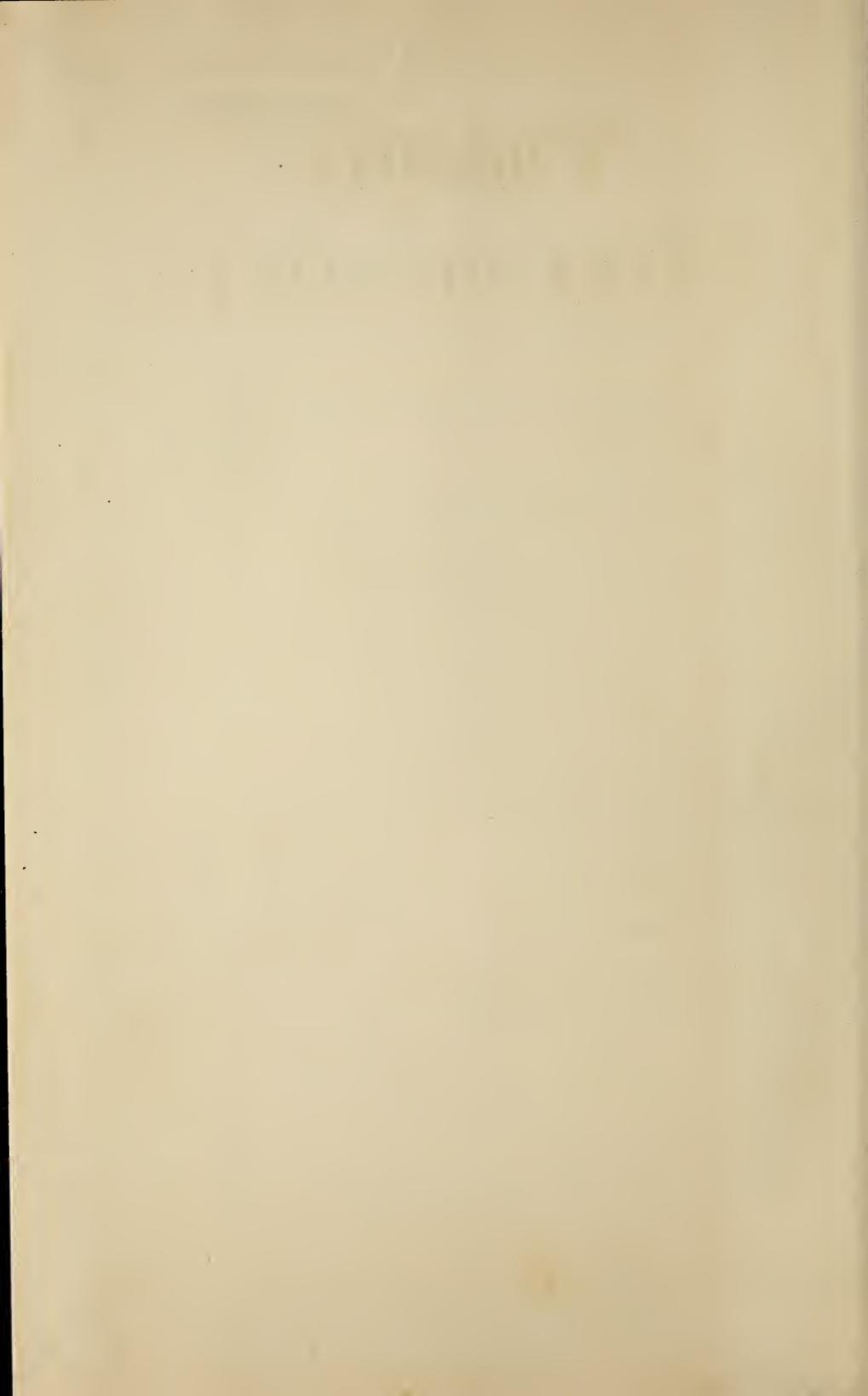
# Vignettes of Portsmouth

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# Vignettes of Portsmouth

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## Odiorne's Point

JUST inshore from the ledge where Whalesback Light guards the harbor mouth lies Odiorne's Point, where New Hampshire's first settlers established their plantation. The river had been discovered, in 1603, by Captain Pring, and visited in 1614 by Captain John Smith, who drew a map of the region and presented it to Prince Charles, who thereupon gave the territory the name of New England. In 1623, the Laconia Company, an association of merchants in England, to whom had been granted "all the lands situated between the rivers Merrimack and Sagedehock, extending back to the Great Lakes and the river of Canada," determined to establish a fishing plantation at the River Piscataqua.

On this point of land, their agent, David Thomson, and his assistants, erected the first house, named "Mason Hall" from the fact that in the division of the Laconia Grant, Captain John Mason received this part of the territory. Besides the house, were a fort and salt works, and the business of fishing, trading with natives for furs, and cultivating the ground was carried on energetically. In various grants and divisions of the property Captain John Mason acquired title to land extending sixty miles from the mouth of the river, but after he had for a number of years furnished fishing gear, tools, provisions and cattle for his settlers, and was in prospect of realizing a profit from his venture, he suddenly died in 1637. After that time the settlement languished;

unfaithful stewards appropriated the supplies, and one of them "drove an hundred head of oxen, which belonged to the Mason plantations, to Boston and sold them at twenty pounds sterling a head."

The heirs of Mason, in 1660, received the opinion from the King's Attorney-General that "Robert Mason, grandson and heir of Captain John Mason, had a good and legal title to the Province of New Hampshire." The title thus established served to give to the twelve purchasers of the Masonian estate, in 1746, the disposition of all the land as far as Conway to the northward, and Francestown to the westward. The purchasers gave a deed to all towns for the land which had been previously settled within their respective boundaries, then sold to individual purchasers the broad acres they had left.

## The Parade

THIS center of Portsmouth's commerce, the stage for many historic scenes, now holds alone the name it formerly shared with that part of Pleasant Street reaching to the postoffice. The use of the space for the musters of the town's militia was thus characterized by the descriptive title, "Parade."

In the year 1758, the General Assembly of the Province of New Hampshire erected in the center of the square, now left open, a State House "built of wood, eighty feet long, thirty feet wide, and two stories high. The upper story had three divisions; in the easterly room met the King's Council, in

## Vignettes of Portsmouth

the middle sat the House of Representatives and in the westerly convened the Courts of Common Law. The lower floor was undivided and so was the convenient place of assembly for the town's people."

The town pump, hard by the State House, served in the administration of justice as a whipping post. It is recorded that one cold day in January, 1764, a woman was seen to secrete a pair of children's shoes beneath her hood cloak, while in a shop on King Street. She was seized, brought before Honorable Hunking Wentworth, Justice of Peace, and on the presentation of evidence sentenced to be publicly whipped. At the town pump her hands were tied up to staples, while the sheriff applied the cat o' nine tails to her bare back and shoulders before a great number of spectators who had gathered to "see this good work performed," as a newspaper of the next week charitably reports it.

On November 1, 1765, the day on which the Stamp Act of King George III was to go into effect, the people met in numbers at the State House, and, at three o'clock, formed a funeral procession following a coffin with the inscription, "Liberty, aged 145, Stamped." While bells were tolled and ships in the harbor half-masted their colors, the procession moved through the principal streets, was saluted with minute guns on passing the Parade, and at the place of interment halted for a funeral oration. Some signs of life were observed in the corpse of Liberty and it was not committed to the grave. The coffin, with motto changed to "Liberty Revived" was borne away in triumph to the joyful pealing of the bells, while in the grave was buried a copy of the hated Stamp Act.

Here, in March, 1767, Governor John Wentworth, the last of the royal governors, was received with great enthusiasm on his arrival from South Carolina. The High Sheriff read from the State House balcony the King's Commission appointing him Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province, also a Commission from the Lords

of Admiralty appointing him Vice-Admiral. After a banquet with the members of the Council and the gentlemen present, a procession escorted the Governor to his home, while "such ardency and emulation prevailed among all ranks, as gave the most promising hopes that His Excellency's government would be crowned with the most cordial affections of the people, whose happiness and his own were now so intimately blended."

At the same western steps of the State House where the Governor dismounted was read to an equally enthusiastic assemblage on July 18, 1776, the Declaration of Independence published by the Congress at Philadelphia on the 4th.

On April 28, 1783, the Sheriff of Rockingham proclaimed from the balcony of the State House the ratification by Congress of the provisional articles of peace between the United States and his Britannic Majesty. "A large concourse assembled on the Parade heard it with the most lively demonstrations of joy."

June 26, 1788, witnessed the celebration commemorating the adoption of the Federal Constitution by New Hampshire, the ninth state. After a day of processions, salutes and banquets, the State House was "beautifully illuminated with nine lights at each window, while a large company of ladies and gentlemen were entertained with music from the balcony."

On October 30, 1789, President Washington was received with great demonstrations of honor and respect. From the balcony of the State House he addressed "an immense crowd of spectators who covered the Parade and adjacent buildings. Whilst in this situation, several odes composed for the occasion were sung in a superior style, accompanied by a band of music. A large body of troops, under command of General Cilley, passed him in review, and he was then conducted to his lodging by President Sullivan, the Marshal of the district, and several other gentlemen, escorted by a company of infantry under arms. In the eve-



WHALESBACK LIGHT



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THE PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

ning the State House was brilliantly illuminated, thirteen rockets ascended from the balcony, and other fireworks added to the beauty of the scene."

In the year 1836, the State House was removed by popular subscription, and the space thus extended forms the present Parade, or Market Square. On lower Court Street still stands a part of the old building, now used as a dwelling house.

## First National Bank

SUCCESSOR to the Piscataqua Exchange Bank, incorporated in 1844, which in turn succeeded the Piscataqua Bank of 1824, the First National Bank occupies, behind the new granite front of 1904, the original building and vault of the New Hampshire Bank. This structure, built in 1803, after the fire of the preceding year had destroyed the gambrel-roof building in the eastern half of which the New Hampshire Bank had conducted its business since its incorporation in 1792, is believed to be the oldest bank building erected and continuously occupied for banking purposes in the United States.

The First National Bank, sending its application for charter under the National Banking Law on March 9, 1863, filed bonds to secure circulation on April 9, the first bank in the United States to carry out this provision.

The articles of incorporation having been returned for changes made necessary by new rules, the bank received the number 19 in the Comptroller's Department, instead of the number 1 it secured in the Treasury Department.

## The Portsmouth Savings Bank

INCORPORATED in 1823, this is the oldest savings bank in the state. In 1903, the present structure replaced the building used jointly with the First National Bank, constructed in 1803 for the use of the New Hampshire Bank. This bank,

incorporated on January 3, 1792, was the first bank established in the state. On the second floor of this old building were offices that had been occupied at different periods by Jeremiah Mason, Governor Levi Woodbury, and President Franklin Pierce.

## New Hampshire National Bank

BEFORE the erection of the modern bank office building of the New Hampshire National Bank, stood here the Portsmouth City Hall, built in 1800, before the adoption of municipal government. In 1784, this was the site of the first public school for girls, a venture which, after eighteen months' trial, was abandoned for lack of interest. Not again, until 1815, was provision made for regular public education of female scholars.

In 1794, the town purchased the lot from John Fisher, Esq., of London, for £450, to provide a location for a market. The market, erected in 1800, was eighty feet long and thirty-five feet wide; the lower story, twelve feet high, served as a market; while the upper story, fourteen feet, was intended for "a commodious and elegant Town Hall."

March 25, 1801, the annual town meeting voted that the chamber of the brick market be hereafter called "Jefferson Hall" in honor of Thomas Jefferson, who had taken his seat as President of the United States three weeks before.

In 1802, a disastrous fire consumed the market, with a "large proportion of the town," but by 1804 its former usefulness and appearance were completely restored.

From 1818 until the adoption of the city charter, in 1849, all town meetings and elections were held here.

On May 16, 1844, a public reception was given here to Daniel Webster, on his return as a New Hampshire delegate from the Baltimore Convention which nominated Henry Clay for the presidency.

In 1864, Jefferson Hall was cut up into

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

offices for municipal officials, and in 1875 the market was abolished to furnish other offices on the lower floor. Thereafter, until the sale of site and building in 1910, the old structure served as a Portsmouth City Hall.

The New Hampshire National Bank, incorporated in 1865, succeeded the early State Bank, the New Hampshire Bank, second of that name, which took corporate form in 1855.

## The North Church

ON this northeastern corner of the Glebe Land, the majority of the town, in town meeting in the year 1711, despite the wishes of a large minority, voted to erect a new meeting house to take the place of the old structure at the South Mill Dam, which had been standing fifty-eight years and was much in need of repairs. On the completion of the new house in 1712, the majority, with the minister, Rev. Nathaniel Rogers, began to worship here, while the opponents of the change chose Rev. John Emerson to serve them in the old meeting house.

Here were held all the town meetings until the erection of the Court House in 1758.

The first town clock was provided for in the year 1740, when the North Church "gave permission to any person, or number of persons, so disposed, to procure a Clock, at their own cost, to set it up in the steeple of their meeting house, and the proprietors of said clock also had liberty to remove it at their pleasure." Taking advantage of this liberal offer, Mr. Daniel Pierce, Esq., and several other gentlemen, purchased a clock by popular subscription, and on March 25, 1749, presented it to the town for installation in the North Meeting House steeple.

On December 16, 1773, was held in the old North Church a Portsmouth Tea Party, where vigorous resolutions were passed declaring that "the act of the British Parliament levying a duty on tea landed

in America, payable here, is a tax whereby the property of Americans is taken from them without their consent."

An entry from President George Washington's private diary made on November 1, 1789, during his visit to Portsmouth, follows: "Attended by the President of the State (General Sullivan), Mr. Langdon and the Marshal, I went in the forenoon to the Episcopal Church under the incumbency of Mr. Ogden, and in the afternoon to one of the Presbyterian or Congregational Churches, in which a Mr. Buckminster preached." During this service the President occupied the pew of General William Whipple, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Among other pew holders in the old church have been Governor John Langdon and Daniel Webster.

In 1822, modern conditions demanded that stoves supersede the individual foot-stove heating system, which had been used up to that time and, in 1854, that the present brick structure replace the historic meeting house of 1712.

It is of interest to note that two pastors from this parish have been college presidents. In 1774, the pastor of the North Church, the Reverend Samuel Langdon, left to become the president of Harvard College, and in 1778 the Reverend Ezra P. Stiles, who had been elected to succeed Langdon, left to take the presidency at Yale College.

## Portsmouth Athenaeum

INCORPORATED by the Legislature of the State in 1803, the New Hampshire Fire and Marine Insurance Company erected this building in that year, and occupied it until the suspension of the company, caused principally by its losses during the War of 1812.

In 1817, the property was purchased by the Portsmouth Athenaeum, a group of gentlemen who had formed an association to promote a public library. This is now a

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

valuable collection of books, original manuscripts, and Portsmouthiana.

## Congress Street

UNTIL the reading of the Declaration of Independence from the State House western steps, on July 18, 1776, this street bore the name of King Street. On that memorable occasion, an ardent patriot, Captain Thomas Manning, whose house still stands near Liberty Bridge, threw his hat into the air and cried, "Huzza for Congress Street," the name it has borne to the present day.

## The Lower Glebe

THROUGH Portsmouth history in three centuries runs the tale of the Glebe Lands, which, given soon after the settlement of the town "toward the furtherance and advancement of the glory of God," caused a succession of worldly controversy and law suits until the year 1823.

On May 25, 1640, Governor Francis Williams, Ambrose Gibbons, his assistant, and eighteen of the principal inhabitants granted fifty acres of land for a glebe or parsonage; thirty-eight acres at the head of Strawberry Bank Creek forming the upper glebe, and twelve acres lying nearer the river forming the lower glebe. This comprises the land now extending from the northeast corner of the North Church to the west side of the Kearsarge House lot, thence parallel with Chestnut Street to the South Pond, from there to the garden of the Doctor Langdon estate on Pleasant Street, and from that point to the North Church.

In the year 1705, with only one house built on the land, a public town meeting "voted to divide the twelve acres of the glebe situated near the parsonage into lots, and to lease out the same, appropriating the rents for the benefit of the minister, reserving convenient places for a meeting house, court house, almshouse, and a burying ground."

In the year 1823, about one half of the

lots were still under lease, with rentals due from each lot. Charles W. Cutter, for the church, commenced suit against the delinquents, assisted later by Jeremiah Mason and Edward Cutts, eminent lawyers of the town. The rents due were collected and payments made which discharged the leases for the remainder of the nine hundred and ninety-nine years. An interesting question of ownership is thereby left to be settled in the year 2704.

## The Hunking Wentworth House

HERE dwelt Hunking Wentworth, the second son of Lieutenant-Governor John Wentworth. Born Dec. 19, 1697, he was the uncle of the last Governor John Wentworth, but joined the Revolutionary cause, was elected chairman of the Committee of Safety, and even went so far as to declare his nephew "an enemy to the community" because he had procured carpenters and sent them to assist General Gage at Boston in the construction of barracks for his destitute troops. In the seventy-eighth year of his age, Hunking Wentworth, as chairman of the Committee of Safety, secured the signatures of the four hundred and ninety-seven inhabitants who were willing to sign the Association Test of 1776.

On March 14th of that year, the Continental Congress at Philadelphia had recommended to the Colonies that all opponents to the cause of America be disarmed; whereupon each Colony sent to the towns instructions "to desire all males above twenty-one years of age, lunatics, idiots and negroes excepted, to sign to the Declaration" wherein, quoting the instrument itself, "We, the subscribers, do hereby solemnly engage and promise that we will to the utmost of our power, at the Risque of our Lives and Fortunes, with Arms, oppose the Hostile Proceedings of the British Fleet and Armies against the United American Colonies."

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

The importance of this proceeding can hardly be overestimated, for the fullness of the returns throughout the Colonies soon assured the Delegates at Congress that their Declaration on July 4th, and subsequent acts of independence, would receive complete sanction from all the country.

Hunking Wentworth lived to see all the events that led to the conclusion of the war with Great Britain, but died in 1782, the year before the Articles of Peace were published.

## National Block

THE house preceding this brick structure was built in the year 1745 by Mr. Charles Treadwell, one of the town's prosperous merchants, for his daughter and her husband, Dr. Ammi R. Cutter, graduate at Harvard College in 1752 at the early age of seventeen. Doctor Cutter studied with Dr. Clement Jackson, an eminent physician of the town. Appointed surgeon of a regiment raised in the province to oppose the inroads of the French and Indians, he continued with the regiment throughout the long frontier campaign, and was present at the capture of Louisburg, in 1758, by the Cape Breton Expedition.

Refusing the office of King's Counsellor under the Royal Governor "because he thought the official duties would be incompatible with his professional engagements," he embraced the cause of his country and firmly opposed the oppressive acts of the British Ministry. During the Revolutionary War, in 1777, he was assigned charge of the medical department of the Northern Army and served until after the surrender of Burgoyne. Leaving his practice for but one political duty, his services as delegate to the Convention which formed the Constitution of New Hampshire, he enjoyed the highest respect for his professional attainments until his death in 1820, at the age of eighty-six.

In the year 1837, his house became a hotel called the Temperance Mansion House, a name later changed to the City

Hotel, then the National Hotel, as it was called when fire destroyed it in 1877.

## The Metlin Lot

ONE of the Glebe lots, leased in 1712 to Captain Richard Gerrish, was leased in 1730 to Robert Metlin for a bakery. This baker was one of Portsmouth's most famous characters, if his history be authentic. He usually bought flour in Boston and always made the journey on foot in one day, a distance reckoned then as sixty-six miles. After buying his flour and putting it on a coasting vessel, he would return home the next day. "At that time this was thought an extraordinary day's journey for a horse," says the historian, adding that "the stages required the greater part of two days for the trip to Boston."

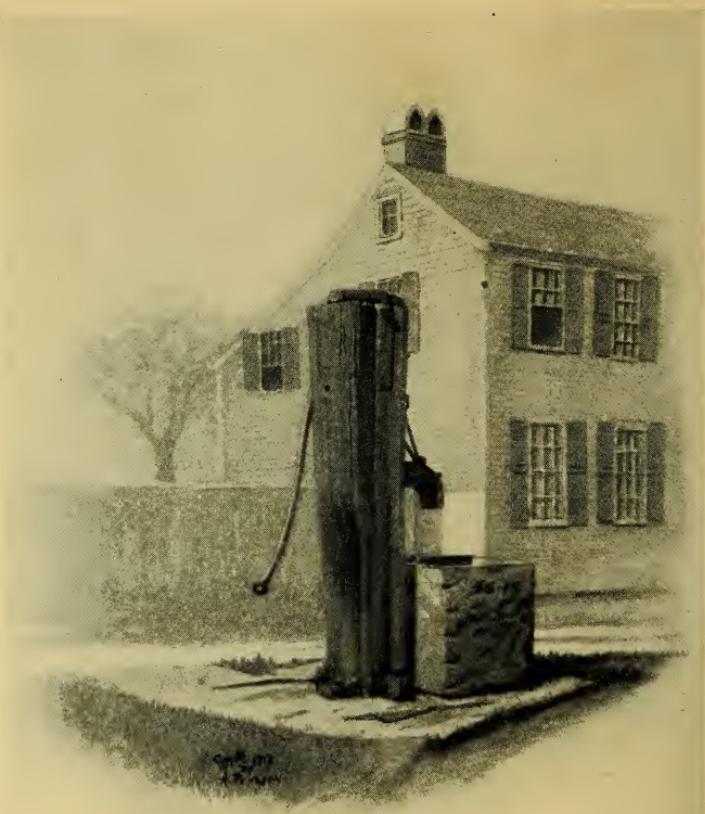
Adams chronicles one of the baker's visits made on a day when Colonel Atkinson, in a light sulky, drawn by a strong horse, started early in the morning for the same destination. Overtaking Metlin before reaching Greenland, he inquired where he was bound. To his answer, "Boston," Atkinson asked if he ever expected to reach there. When the colonel stopped at Greenland, Metlin passed him, and in turn was passed by the former. Passing each other alternately through the day, they crossed the Charlestown ferry to Boston in the same boat before sunset. Accomplishing the Boston journey for the last time when he was eighty years old, he shortly quitted the baking business and removed to Wakefield, where he died in 1787, at the advanced age of one hundred and fifteen years.

## Franklin Block

LIKE so many of Portsmouth's modern structures, this block holds less of interest than did the building which it replaced. The first building was a tavern called the Portsmouth Hotel and Stage House, which was formed from two



THE LANGDON DOOR



MEETING HOUSE HILL PUMP

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

wooden structures, soon after their completion by Langley Boardman, in 1800. This was headquarters for the stage lines to Boston, Portland, and Concord. In 1819, the part on the corner of Fleet (then Mason) Street was removed and a brick building erected, called Franklin Hall.

Here was held, on May 21, 1823, "a splendid ball, celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of New Hampshire's settlement. The sides of the room were entirely covered with portraits of eminent persons who flourished before the Revolution, and it is supposed that nearly four hundred ladies and gentlemen graced the hall on this occasion."

The following year, on September 21, 1824, the Marquis de Lafayette, on his visit to the town, held a reception in Franklin Hall, at which were present thirty soldiers who had fought under his command during the Revolutionary War.

## The Leavitt House

IN the year 1761, a man of striking personality came to this house, Honorable Wyseman Clagett, driven from his home at the corner of Daniel and Penhallow Streets by the disastrous fire of that year. He had arrived in Portsmouth in 1758, coming from Antigua, where he had been Secretary in the Island's government. "A superior legal education acquired in England won him early recognition for he was admitted an attorney of the Superior Court at the next session after his arrival, and was soon afterward appointed Justice of Peace." He performed this office with such severity that his name became proverbial, and to "Clagett" was to "prosecute." If the anecdotes related of him are true, they extend the definition as well to "persecute."

Not being able to purchase a load of wood for sale one day, on the Parade, at the price Wyseman considered fair, he bade one of his servants go and insult the owner. The irritated teamster, with an oath, shook

his goad at the agent, whereupon, he was immediately haled before the Justice on the charge of using profane language. Upon the imposition of a fine of five dollars, the poor man began to bemoan the fact that the load of wood which he had brought in to sell for means to pay his taxes would not bring as much as the fine. "This case is a hard one," said Clagett, "in pity for you, you may drive the load into my yard, and I will make up the balance of the fine myself." Frequently the funds of the attorney's office are said to have been thus replenished by fines imposed upon individuals arrested by the constables, after they had impelled infractions of the law by offering insults.

In the year 1767, Wyseman Clagett was appointed King's Attorney General, but took a very early and decided opposition to the oppressive acts of the British Parliament. He was a member of the Committee of Safety, and was influential in putting into operation the temporary form of government first adopted by New Hampshire. Holding the office of Solicitor General in this government, he was the only person to ever hold that title, for on the adoption of the Constitution, in 1784, the office ceased to exist.

## The Public Library

BUILT in 1809, from the designs of the renowned architect, Charles Bulfinch, for the proprietors of the Portsmouth Academy, this building was used by that scholastic body until 1868, when it was sold to the city for a public school. Since the year 1896, the Portsmouth Public Library has used the building.

## The Cutter House

BUILT in the year 1750, by Charles Treadwell, or, stated more exactly, by his wife, for their son Jacob, this mansion was later purchased by Doctor Ammi R. Cutter. He gave it to his daughter, the

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

wife of Colonel Storer, who commanded the first division of the New Hampshire militia in the year 1814. In 1817, Colonel Storer, then a member of Congress, entertained here President James Munroe, Brigadier General Jas. Miller, Hero of Lundy's Lane, Commodore Bainbridge, and General Henry Dearborn, who had been a colonel in the Revolutionary War and a major general in the War of 1812.

## The Buckminster House

IN the year 1720, Daniel Warner, lately come from Ipswich, erected this mansion. About the year 1758, he intended to present it to his son Nathaniel, engaged to Miss Lettice Mitchell, one of the town's most attractive maidens. Nathaniel, making a voyage to Europe for his health, found on his return that Honorable Wyseman Clagett had used his absence to such good purpose that Miss Mitchell had become the wife of the energetic lawyer. This so affected Mr. Warner that he is said to have died of a broken heart, while the former Miss Mitchell learned too late that the severity of the Justice was not confined to the bench. The house, after being occupied by several merchants prominent in their day, came into the possession, in the year 1792, of Colonel Eliphalet Ladd, one of the venturesome characters of early Portsmouth. When only sixteen years of age he had joined a surveying expedition to Crown Point and was lost with the party in the Vermont wilderness, being obliged to subsist on raw pumpkins and horse meat for many days. Later, in the course of thirty years' trade at Exeter, he three times counted himself wealthy and as often was reduced to his last dollar.

Among his interests was that of shipbuilding. At the time of the Revolution, Colonel Ladd built a twenty-ton ship, "The Hercules." The Royalists, well informed of the building, had in a Halifax paper published that on a certain day a ship of twenty tons, then on the stocks on the

Piscataqua, would be sold at auction in Halifax. When "The Hercules" sailed from Portsmouth Harbor, two British frigates on the watch promptly captured her, and the auction took place on the day advertised.

A great feat, for the day and time, was the building of a "monster" merchant ship of five hundred tons, the "Archilæus." She was built at Exeter, and required three years to complete. The Colonel is reported to have taken in part payment a cord of metal buttons, which remained in stock until after his death, when the War of 1812 created an unexpected demand that added several thousand dollars to their value. Colonel Ladd developed much of the business property of Portsmouth; opened the street which bears his name, and erected blocks on that and Market Street. He also was the chief architect of the Piscataqua Exchange Bank, the admirably designed structure that preceded the present Portsmouth Savings and First National Bank.

As projector of the Portsmouth Aqueduct Company, in the year 1797, however, he performed his most valuable service to the community. The company purchased some well-known springs at a farm about two and a half miles from Market Square and, after a survey in person by Colonel Eliphalet Ladd, laid log pipes into the town, and by 1800 had "so far completed the work that two hundred and fourteen houses and stores are supplied with water." This it is believed, was the first public water supply to be conveyed to buildings in the United States. The Colonel was so confident of his engineering that he erected a pipe in front of his dwelling and cut it off at a certain height saying, "Thus high will the water rise." When it was let into the logs, it rose exactly to the point he designated, not varying an inch.

After the death of Colonel Ladd in 1806 his widow resided here alone until the year 1810; then she became the third wife of Reverend Joseph Buckminster, pastor of the North Church for thirty-three years.

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

A son of Colonel Eliphalet Ladd was William Ladd, the founder and first President of the American Peace Society.

## The Governor Goodwin House

ERECTED in 1811, this mansion was purchased in 1832 by Ichabod Goodwin, after he had retired from his previous active sea life. As governor of New Hampshire, he was in office from 1859-1861, and thus directed the raising of troops for the defence of the Union. He was president of the Eastern Railroad in New Hampshire and of the Portland, Saco and Portsmouth Railroad for twenty-five years. In this mansion, in the year 1867, his daughter Susan became the first wife of Lieut. George Dewey, afterward the Admiral of the Navy.

## Pleasant Street

IN a general town meeting, held March 13, 1673, Captain John Pickering, at that time owner of the greater part of what is now the South End, "did voluntarily and freely for himself and heirs forever, surrender to the town a highway of two rods broad through his land commonly called Pickering's Neck, with liberty to pass over his dam both for horse and foot to and from the Meeting House and this to lie forever for a public highway." This was called Pleasant Street.

## The Glebe Building

THE land on which stands this building was the lot numbered 1 on the glebe plan. This was leased, in the year 1709, by Richard Wibird, at a rental of fifteen shillings per year. In 1791, the rental was discharged for the remainder of the nine hundred and ninety-nine years for the sum of £3, 15 shillings. Here stood the publication office of the *Portsmouth Oracle*, the building which is now situated on the corner of Court and Middle Streets, moved there to give place for the present Glebe

Building. This structure, erected in 1800 by Daniel Austin, was the first store of three stories erected in Portsmouth.

## Exchange Block

SHORTLY after the great fire of 1813, when all the buildings on this site were destroyed as far as the Brick Market, the present block was erected. Here is published weekly the *New Hampshire Gazette*, the oldest newspaper of continuous publication in the United States, with its first number dated 1756. At the corner of State and Pleasant Streets was built, after the fire, the office of the New Hampshire Union Bank, incorporated in 1802, with Governor Langdon as President. The charter expired in 1842. Here also was the branch bank of the United States, established in 1813 and closed in 1835. The adjoining part of the building on Pleasant Street was the location of the Piscataqua Bank, chartered in 1824, and succeeded by the Piscataqua Exchange Bank, the predecessors of the present First National.

## The Richard Jenness House

AMONG the many dwellings destroyed by the fire of 1813 was the house where dwelt, in 1735, Thomas Packer, Sheriff of the Province of New Hampshire. Though probably he served the Province well, he is chiefly remembered for his execution of a woman named Ruth Blay, on a cold December day in 1768. Her case had aroused such universal sympathy that a reprieve was on the way from the Governor, even as the cart was drawn from beneath the gallows. It was reported that the ceremony was hastened because the Sheriff did not wish to be late for his dinner. The enraged populace hung the Sheriff's effigy before his house that night with the inscription,

"Am I to lose my dinner,  
This woman for to hang,  
Come, draw away the cart my boys,  
Don't stop to say amen."

## Vignettes of Portsmouth

After the death of Sheriff Packer, in 1771, the house became the residence of Honorable John Langdon. He was succeeded by the Widow Purcell, come hither from her family residence at the corner of State and Middle Streets to open a boarding house. In 1786, Colonel William Brewster, of the old Bell Tavern, changed residences with Mrs. Purcell, opening here a "genteel boarding house." In 1789, the Colonel entertained President Washington for the four days of his visit to Portsmouth, but before the destroying fire of 1813 the house had come into the occupancy of Deacon Enoch M. Clark. An interesting commentary on changes in educational standards is given by the fact that though Deacon Clark was master of the school in School Street for many years, and had frequently one hundred scholars, he had never studied any grammar and made no attempt to go beyond the familiar three R's of education. The house now standing was built in 1818 by the widow of Robert Treadwell, one of Portsmouth's prosperous merchants.

### The Site of the Daniel Webster House

ONE of the first houses to be consumed in the great fire of 1813 was the home of Daniel Webster on the northwest corner of Court and Pleasant Streets, a large two-storied, gambrel-roofed structure. On the night of the fire Webster was "enjoying the festivities of an entertainment at a neighbor's, Mr. Jacob Sheafe," who dwelt on State Street near the east corner of Penhallow. At the cry of fire "Mr. Sheafe turned out a fresh supply of wine saying, 'We'll take a parting glass, Mr. Webster.'" With this ceremony Mr. Webster left to find his house wrapped in the destroying flames which shortly surrounded the house of the host himself.

Mr. Webster lived thereafter in the house at the corner of High Street and Webster Court, until he removed to Boston in 1817.

### The Reverend Samuel Langdon House

IN the year 1638, stood here the first parsonage and place of worship in the town, the Episcopal Chapel, "furnished with one great bible, twelve service books, one pewter flagon, one Communion cup and cover of silver, two fine table cloths and two napkins sent over by John Mason, the Proprietor of the Province."

Richard Gibson, the first clergyman, gave offence to the Puritanical Government of Massachusetts and was summoned before the Court at Boston, which, upon his submission, discharged him on the understanding that he was soon to leave the country. The church, as a body, was thus destroyed, and the building itself was burned in the year 1704. In 1749, the Reverend Samuel Langdon, who had served as chaplain of the New Hampshire troops at the siege of Louisburg in the year 1745, built and occupied the present house. He had been Pastor of the North Church for two years at that time, and dwelt here until his pastorate ended with his appointment as President of Harvard College in 1774. On the night of June 16, 1775, he offered prayer at Cambridge to the troops assembled for the march to Charlestown and Bunker Hill. After Doctor Langdon's resignation of the college presidency, in 1780, he was installed as Pastor of the church in Hampton Falls, "where he spent the residue of his days in usefulness and peace, a blessing to the people in his charge and happy in the enjoyment of their affection and respect."

### The Governor Langdon House

THIS stately mansion was built in the year 1784, by Governor John Langdon and occupied by him until his death, on September 18, 1819. A venturesome life of unusual interest began when the future patriot was two years old and dwelt in his



THE LEAR HOUSE



POINT OF GRAVES



THE GARDNER LINDEN

## Vignettes of Portsmouth

ancestral home near the crossing of Lafayette and Elwyn Roads, for in the year 1741 the house was consumed by fire and the child was saved from destruction by being thrown from a window down upon a snow bank. After school days at Major Hale's on State Street and further education in the counting-room of Daniel Rindge, John Langdon engaged in a sea-faring life until the Revolutionary troubles enlisted his ready support.

In the year 1774, with Captain John Pickering and Major Sullivan, he led in the daring midnight capture of Fort William and Mary, "recorded in British Annals as the first action of the rebels against British soldiery, preparatory to the War of the Revolution." In the years 1775 and 1776, he was a delegate to the General Congress and as commander of an independent body of cadets was present at Burgoyne's surrender. He was a member and speaker of the Provincial Legislature of 1776 and 1777 in session at Exeter. When the fall of Fort Ticonderoga led to a decline in the public credit and general discouragement at the country's situation, addressing the Representatives, he made his stirring pledge to the cause of freedom: "I have a thousand dollars in hard money; I will pledge my plate for three thousand more. I have seventy hogsheads of Tobago rum which will be sold for the most they will bring. They are at the services of the State. If we succeed in defending our firesides and our homes, I may be remunerated; if we do not, then the property will be of no value to me. Our friend Stark, who so nobly maintained the honor of our State at Bunker Hill may safely be trusted with the honor of the enterprise and we will check the progress of Burgoyne." From this noble offer came the gallant little New Hampshire army that turned back the British northern invasion at Bennington.

Holding many National offices of trust, and frequently elected to State and National Legislatures, John Langdon was chosen President of the United States Senate at its

first session, and in that capacity declared the vote of the nation which elected Washington President, and Adams Vice-President of the United States, administering to them their oaths of office. After serving the State as Governor from 1805-1811, with the exception of the year 1809, he declined the National Vice-Presidential nomination from the Republican Congressional Caucus in 1812, thereafter retiring from public affairs "and passed the evening of his days in calm retreat from the business of politics and contending parties."

Aside from being the residence of a man so famous in his day, this mansion gains interest from the notable guests who have passed within its doors. President Washington's diary, kept during his visit in 1789, notes that on the day of his arrival, October 31st, after a day of public receptions, he "drank tea at Mr. Langdon's." On Monday, November 2d, he "dined at Colonel Langdon's and drank tea there with a large circle of ladies." Just before leaving Portsmouth, and noting his impressions, he writes, "There are some good houses, among which Colonel Langdon's may be esteemed the first."

At the time of the French Revolution, the three sons of the Duke of Orleans, among them Louis Phillippe, the future King of France, took refuge in the new republic, and coming to Portsmouth found the "William Pitt" unable to accommodate them, whereupon they took quarters with Governor Langdon. Years afterward, when a Portsmouth lady was presented to King Louis Phillippe he remembered his visit and made inquiry, "Is the pleasant mansion of Governor Langdon still standing?" Another Presidential guest at the Governor's hospitable hall was President Munroe, who called here at the time of his visit to Portsmouth in the year 1817.

Following his illustrious predecessors, President William H. Taft called at the Governor's mansion when in the city of Portsmouth, October 23, 1912.

After Governor Langdon's death, Rev-

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

erend Doctor Burroughs, Rector of St. John's Church for forty-five years, resided in the house, but in recent years it has returned to the family of its first owner.

## The Mark H. Wentworth House

THE year after the Peace," 1784, Captain Thomas Thompson built this dwelling at the place where, on the high tide, boats could be sailed from Puddle Dock to the South Mill Pond. The owner was one of the first naval officers commissioned by the Continental Congress, and commanded the frigate "Raleigh," built under the direction of Colonel Langdon for the American Navy.

The year after the erection of the two neighboring houses, Governor Langdon appointed Captain Thompson colonel of a regiment of artillery.

In 1902, the occupant of the house was Mark Hunking Wentworth, Esq., born in 1817, one of the seventh generation in direct descent from the original settler, Elder William Wentworth.

## The Jacob Wendell House

BUILT in 1789, by Jeremiah Hill, and occupied from 1814 to 1816 by Joshua Haven, this dwelling then came into the possession of Jacob Wendell, merchant of old Portsmouth. He provided the house with Chippendale furniture, and a set of one hundred and thirty-eight pieces of Flemish cut glass, rare pieces even in the days of Portsmouth's prosperity.

## The Site of the Doctor Samuel Haven House

WITH the Parry and Livermore mansions, a house built by Reverend Doctor Samuel Haven, probably before his marriage in 1763, occupied the space now called Haven Park. Born at Framingham, Massachusetts, August 4th, 1787, he had

received a liberal education at Harvard College, where he graduated in 1749. Declining a call from a church in Medway, in 1751, because the call was not unanimous, and because the salary was inadequate "to sustain ye dignity or afford me leisure to perform ye duties to which you would call me, which are well becoming and absolutely incumbent on ye Minister of Christ," also refusing for the same lack of unity, a call from Brookline made in 1752, he found "an agreeable union in the vote of a distant church to which I am invited to labor in another part of Christ's vineyard." This was the South Church of Portsmouth which gave him a salary of £70 yearly and valuable assistance in the matter of fire wood, which, as he set forth, is a "very chargeable article in this populous town." In addition, the town's people were moved to allow him the use of the training field for his horse and cow pasture.

Besides giving effective service to the country during the Revolutionary War in throwing the weight of his character and influence toward the cause of the Colonies, he gave very practical assistance in providing munitions of war. After the news of the battle of Lexington reached Portsmouth, he sat up with his family the greater part of the night making bullets.

He also was very proficient in the manufacture of saltpetre, using the vacant lot north of his house where later stood the Parry House, and procuring earth for its composition from under the South Church and other favorable localities. A receipt is in existence, given to the Reverend Doctor Haven by two physicians in Portsmouth, that they had "examined a quantity of saltpetre made by him and have weighed off three hundred and eight lbs. which we judge to be sufficiently pure and dry." This is dated May 13, 1776, two months before the Declaration of Independence.

Doctor Haven died in 1806, after serving the South Church for fifty-four years, during which pastorate he had received the

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

Degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Edinburgh in 1770, and the same Degree from Dartmouth College a few years later. In his will, he provided that after the last of his descendants had passed away, his house should be taken down and the ground given to the city for a public park. In 1898, these provisions were carried out, the house razed, the Parry House moved to its present location on Marginal Road, and the Livermore House carried across the street.

## The Livermore House

IN the year 1724, the selectmen of the town applied to the officers of the college at Cambridge "to send them a young graduate qualified to teach a grammar school, who was willing to engage in that business for ten years." They recommended Mr. Matthew Livermore, born at Watertown, January 14, 1703, a graduate at Harvard College in 1722. Reserving the liberty of quitting the school as soon as he was qualified for admission to the bar, he continued as school-master for seven years and was sworn as Attorney-at-Law in 1731. "There was at that time no regularly educated lawyer in this town, and soon after Mr. Livermore's admission, Governor Belcher appointed him Attorney General of the Province and Advocate for the King in the Courts of Admiralty." The latter very lucrative position repaid him for the vexatious and unprofitable Attorney-Generalship.

Presumably in the year 1735, he erected this mansion on the present Haven Park, fronting on Pleasant Street. During the administration of Governor John Wentworth also dwelt here Samuel Livermore, relative to Matthew. He was born in Waltham, May 1732, and settled in Portsmouth about 1758. Appointed by Governor Wentworth, King's Attorney in New Hampshire, he became the Governor's most necessary adviser in the troubles of the Revolutionary epoch.

He resolved, in 1777, however, to join the cause of the Colonies, and continuously from then until his death in 1803, served the country, first as delegate, then Representative and Senator in Congress, and later as Chief Justice of the State. Contemporaneously admired and called "the great man of New Hampshire in his time," he presided with absolute influence at the Convention which formed the present Constitution of New Hampshire and took his place among the subscribers of that document.

When Livermore Street was carried through to the South Pond about 1809, the house was turned to face the new street, and set in spacious gardens reaching to Pleasant Street on one side and to the creek on the other. The house on this location was the birthplace in 1822 of General Fitz John Porter, whose father, Captain John Porter of the Navy, was one of the many occupants of the house after Matthew Livermore's death in 1776. Other dwellers well-known in Portsmouth have been Mr. Toscan, the French Consul, Doctor Nathaniel Haven and Alexander Ladd. In the year 1898, the house was moved across the street to give space for Haven Park.

## Haven Park

ONE of the two interesting houses formerly placed on the Pleasant Street front of the park is now on Marginal Road, whither it was removed in 1900. Just a century before, it was built by Edward Parry, who in 1774 had been consignee of the tea sent by the British Government to enforce the taxation of the Colonies. June 25th of that year saw twenty-seven tea chests, subject to duty, landed and stored in the Custom House before the inhabitants had knowledge of it. Instead of destroying the tea as did the Bostonians, the chests were reshipped, after Parry had paid the duty, and sent to Halifax. On September 8th, the ship "Fox" having arrived with thirty chests of tea consigned to Edward

Parry, the populace grew turbulent and stoned the windows in the house of the consignee, who thereupon called upon the Governor for protection. The next day in an assembly of the townsmen "Edward Parry Esquire, being present, declared that he would not accept the consignment of said tea nor have anything to do with it. A committee was appointed to guard the tea and see it sent off, who reported that it was shipped on board another vessel and that they saw the vessel with the tea on board outside of Fort Point." Thus ended the attempt at Portsmouth to impose the duty which the Colonies declared unjust.

## The Old South Meeting House

**I**N the year 1731, Captain John Pickering presented to the South Parish, then worshipping in the ancient meeting house at the Mill Dam, this lot of land where the new church was erected. It is said that the timbers were hewn from trees cut on the site.

The exercises, at the time of the erection of the frame, were the last public offices of Reverend John Emerson, Pastor of the old church, who had come from Newcastle at the time of the division of 1712. His successor, Reverend William Shurtleff, dying in 1747, was buried "in a grave under the communion table," as also were the remains of his successor, Reverend Job Strong.

After the completion of the stone church in 1826, this old meeting house, of the South Parish, was used by the Freewill Baptist denomination and the City Missionary. Before the destruction of the building in 1863, a floor was laid between the two tiers of windows in the auditorium, and the second floor made into an audience-room, while the first floor was divided into a work-room and two school-rooms. The present building has served the same purpose since it replaced the Old South Meeting House.

## The Governor John Wentworth House

**A**PPOINTED to succeed his uncle, Governor Benning Wentworth, John Wentworth received his commissions as Governor of New Hampshire and as Surveyor of the Woods in North America on August 11, 1766, while he was in England. Landing in South Carolina the following March, he received marked attention as he passed through the Provinces to Portsmouth. Though "the situation of public affairs had assumed a very alarming aspect," the Governor erected this mansion in 1769, and on November 11 of that year married Mrs. Frances Atkinson, widow of Theodore Atkinson, Jr., His Majesty's Counsellor and Secretary of the Province.

On December 13, 1769, the Governor granted a charter to Dartmouth College, which was established at Hanover, and took its name from William, Earl of Dartmouth, one of its principal benefactors in England.

That public sentiment was not strongly opposed to the King's Government even as late as 1773 is seen in the fact that upon the acquittal of Governor Wentworth from charges preferred by Mr. Livius, before the Privy Council in London, "the House of Representatives congratulated him in the name of their constituents and the citizens gave a splendid ball to the Governor and the Assembly." After the Governor had sent carpenters to the assistance of General Gage at Boston, his influence declined, and his hope of preserving the union of the two countries steadily lessened. He saw the power of directing the citizens transferred to a Committee of Safety, whose orders they implicitly obeyed.

It was in the year 1775 that the populace, in pursuit of Captain John Fenton, a Royalist, brought to the door of the Governor's mansion a field piece and threatened to fire into the house unless the men were given up. The Governor did not know that the piece was unloaded and delivered Fenton, but feeling this to be an in-



THE WILLIAM Pitt TAVERN



THE ALDRICH HOUSE

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

sult to himself, shortly left the city to take refuge in the Fort. After some messages to the Assembly, adjourning that body until September 28, Governor Wentworth sailed by the man of war "Scarborough" to Boston. The last official act of the Royal Governor was to come to the Isles of Shoals on September 28 and Prorogue the General Assembly to the following April. Soon after he went to England and was appointed Governor of Nova Scotia, serving from 1792-1800. He died at Halifax in 1820.

A traveler of Colonial days, the Reverend Doctor Dwight reports that "Governor Wentworth was the greatest benefactor to the Province of New Hampshire mentioned in its history. He was a man of sound understanding, refined taste, enlarged views, and a dignified spirit. Agriculture in the Province owed more to him than to any other man. He also originated the formation of new roads and the improvement of old ones. All these circumstances rendered him very popular, and he would probably have continued to increase his reputation had he not been prevented by the controversy between Great Britain and the Colonies. As the case was, he retired from the chair with an unimpeachable character and with a higher reputation than any other man, who at that time held the same office, in the country."

The mansion is now the Mark H. Wentworth Home for Chronic Invalids.

## The Site of the Old Meeting House

IN the year 1657, the town meeting, August 27, empowered the selectmen, among whom were John and Richard Cutt, to build a new meeting house "40 feet square, with twelve windows, 3 substantial doors and a complete pulpit." The building had neither shutters nor pews, and was erected "at the crotch of the roads leading to the Pound and Frame Point two or three rods to the southward of the Mill Dam."

In 1658, Reverend Joshua Moody began his ministerial labors at first supported by subscription, and settled formally by vote of the town in 1660.

That dangers existed in the early town is seen in the vote of September 25, 1662, "that whoever shall kill a wolf within the bounds of this town, and shall nayle the head of said wolf killed upon the meeting house, he shall have five pounds for his paynes to be paid by the treasurer."

In the year 1664, the town meeting of April 18 authorized the Selectmen to hang the bell, the earliest church bell in New Hampshire.

On July 24, 1671, John Pickering agreed with the Selectmen "to build a cage, twelve feet square, with stocks within it and a pillory on the top, a convenient space from the west end of the meeting house," and he also agreed "for thirty shillings to make shutters for the windows to draw backwards and forwards."

In the following year, a town meeting, held March 12, voted "that, if any shall smoke tobacco in the meeting house, at any public meeting, he shall pay a fine of five shillings for the use of the town." Not until 1693 was provision made for the installation of pews, and seats were assigned to each individual in the town, the men carefully divided from the women, and the younger persons given still other places.

In 1712, a meeting house erected on the site of the present North Church was completed pursuant to the order given in the town meeting of September 4, 1711, when it was voted by a majority of the towns people "to build a new meeting house on the corner of the Glebe, which should be the stated meeting house of the town." A large minority opposed the removal, and amid a discussion which is echoed in the town records well into the middle of the eighteenth century, voted to remain in the old meeting house, whither they called the Reverend John Emerson of Newcastle. This Society, thereafter called the South Parish, upon the completion of their new

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

church in the lot presented by John Pickering, removed in 1732 from this structure. The building was then taken down and one half moved to Congress Street to serve as a store until the year 1846.

## The South Mill Bridge

**I**N 1658, the town granted to John Pickering "the mill privilege at the outlet of the South Creek upon condition that he should make and keep in repair a way for foot passengers over the dam in going to and from meeting." This privilege remained in the Pickering family until the year 1790, and a mill stood at the bridge until, in 1881, the city bought the property and removed the structure.

## Haven School

**A**FTER the year 1696, the Selectmen of Portsmouth undertook to provide a public school for the inhabitants' children, but apparently the "Scollmaster" was obliged to hire a school room, for on May 5, 1698, Mr. Phipps informed the Selectmen "Yt he has disbursed fifty shil. for a house to keep scoll in at the bank."

In the year 1700, Bridget Graffort, niece of John Cutt, presented to the town "one lot of land in my great field for erecting a school house." This was opposite her house, which then stood where is now the present city hall. In the town meeting of April 5, it was "voted that the Selectmen tack care to build a scool house upon the land Mrs. Bridget Graffort, lately deceased, gave for the yoose of ye towen for a scool house." At the same time, it was "voted that the Selectmen tack care to build a scool house in some convenient plase one ye south side of ye Mill Dam," and a vote on December 23, 1708, "ordered that Captain John Pickering tack care and agree with Left. Pears, or any other person, for erecting and building a scool house one ye south side of ye Mill Dam, and ye sd. house be finished at or before ye 15th of Aprill next ensuing, the date above sd."

This house, built in front of the site of the present Haven School, was the first public school house ordered to be built in the town. No other provision was made for erecting a school house on the Graffort lot, and in 1735, the town exchanged the lot for the old school house then standing on the site of the present State Street brick school.

## Cotton's Burial Ground

**O**N June 5, 1671, "it was agreed with Goodman Cotton to fence the town's land that lyeth by Goodman Skates for trayning place, to cutt down all trees and bushes, and to clear the same from said ground by April next, and for his so doing he, and his heirs, shall have the above feeding and use thereof as a pasture only, for twenty years, and the said land shall still remayne for a trayning field, and to bury dead in."

It was voted, in 1711, to fence the burying place in the common land or trayning field, and apparently the vote was not carried into effect, for in 1721 the town resolved that the vote respecting the fencing of the burial place "be put in force this year." This portion of the present Proprietors' Burying Ground had the early name of the Cotton Burial Place.

The use of the trayning field was continued after the expiration of Goodman Cotton's tenure by the grant, in 1735, to the Reverend Mr. Shurtleff for use as horse pasture during his ministry.

During the Reverend Mr. Haven's pastorate, which began in 1753, the trayning field at the plains became the property of the Province and this field acquired the title "The Minister's Pasture."

At Dr. Haven's death, a vote in town meeting gave the field to the South Parish which, at the time of the erection of the Stone Church transferred the property to the "Trustees of the Charity Fund." They founded, in 1830, the Proprietor's Burying Ground, the organization which now controls this ancient burial place.

The highest part of the land was the scene of the execution of Ruth Blay by Sheriff Packer.

## The Lear House

HERE was born in 1760, Tobias Lear, son of Captain Tobias Lear, shipmaster and owner of the old Jacob Sheafe farm at Sagamore Creek. The son was graduated with honor at Harvard College in 1783. At this time, General Washington requiring the services of a private secretary, who could also act as tutor for the two children of Parke Custis, whom he had adopted, engaged Tobias Lear, upon the recommendation of General Lincoln, of Boston, and the Reverend Doctor Haven. For sixteen years, or until the end of Washington's life, "the secretary lived as a son at Mt. Vernon, and at the final scene was the chosen attendant to administer such help as could be given." It was a letter of Tobias Lear's that communicated to President Adams, and through him to Congress, the information of Washington's death.

At the time of Washington's visit to Portsmouth, the President came to this house on November 3, 1789, to call upon Mrs. Lear, stepmother of the secretary, and Lear's sister, who had married Samuel Storer. Their son, christened George Washington, was presented to the President, who expressed the wish "that he may be a better man than the one whose name he bears." In after life he was a Rear-Admiral in the navy.

In 1798, when Washington accepted the command of the Provincial Army, Mr. Lear was selected as the military secretary with the rank of colonel. After the death of Washington, and upon the accession of President Jefferson, Colonel Lear was Consul General at St. Domingo. Later, in the year 1804, as Consul General at Tripoli, he acted with Commodore Barron in negotiating peace with that country. He remained in Algiers about eight years, and in 1812, when the Barbary powers declared

war, he was allowed but a few hours to leave the country. Returning to Washington, he was appointed accountant in the War Department, in which office he died very suddenly October 10, 1816.

## The Gardner House

BUILT in the year 1760, by Madam Mark Hunking Wentworth for her son Thomas, this mansion came into the possession of Major William Gardner in 1792. Born in 1751, he had followed the custom of the period and entered a counting house for his business education, in his case the office of Colonel Joshua Wentworth at the corner of Vaughan and Hanover Streets.

During the Revolution, he was an Acting Commissary furnishing supplies to the army. It is related that at one period of the war he was called on for blankets, of which there were none in Portsmouth. At Newburyport Major Gardner found a stock, but the merchant was unwilling to sell. Said he, "The government is so much in debt to me that, if the Revolution is not carried, I am a ruined man. I cannot trust the government any further, but if Major Gardner will take them upon his own personal note, he can have them." To have a reputation for solvency greater than that of the United States government is a distinction not many of its citizens have possessed.

In point of fact, the Major found an empty national treasury to meet his claims, and was so sore a sufferer for his sacrifices at the end of the war, that President Washington appointed him Commissioner of Loans and Pension Agent. His office was over an arch which spanned the present Gardner Street, a well-known landmark in the old town.

When Adams came into power and made a sweeping change of government office holders, the Major was removed, to his great indignation. He became more ardently republican than ever, and was rewarded by having his office restored in 1802 by Thomas Jefferson, being allowed to keep it as long

as it existed. The Major died in 1833, "one of the most honorable and respected of our citizens."

The magnificent linden which stands before the house is well over two hundred years old.

## Point of Graves

**O**N March 2, 1671, Captain John Pickering agreed "that the towne shall have full libertie without any molestation to inclose about half an acre on the neck of land on which he now liveth, where the people have been wont to be buried, which land shall be impropriated forever for the use of a burying place, only the said Pickering and his heirs forever, shall have libertie to feed the same with neat cattle."

Here is the burial place of Lieut. Governor Vaughan, and his contemporaries; here, too, is the grave of Secretary Tobias Lear. The oldest stone now standing is dated 1682.

## The First Wentworth House

**T**HIS structure was erected by Samuel Wentworth, probably before 1670, for the town records of that year show that he was licensed with "libertie to entertain strangers and sell and brew beare." Here, in 1671, was born his son, John Wentworth, appointed Lieut. Governor of the Province of New Hampshire in the year 1717, upon the removal from that office of George Vaughan by Governor Shute. John Wentworth's commission as Lieut. Governor was signed by Joseph Addison, the well known essayist, who was at that time Secretary of State. Here, in 1693, took place the wedding of the future Lieut. Governor, and, in 1695, was born a son destined, in his time, to be Governor of the Province, Benning Wentworth. Lieut. Governor John Wentworth held his commission until his death in 1730.

This ancient mansion is noteworthy in

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its framed construction, with girders centering about the large chimney which is ten by thirteen feet in size. Some of the beams measure twelve by eighteen inches, and in the wainscoting are clear pine boards thirty-eight inches in width.

## Liberty Bridge

**U**NDER present topographical conditions in this part of the City, it is puzzling to read that in 1731 "the town gave permission to a number of persons to build a bridge across the cove, provided they would build and maintain the same at their own expense," and further, "that the bridge had a hoist or draw in it for vessels to pass through." This provision gave the name Swing Bridge to the structure; the title it bore until January 9, 1766. On that day the commission of George Meserve, Royal Stamp Agent for New Hampshire, was carried through the streets on the point of a sword to Swing Bridge. Here, the flag used in the march, bearing a motto "Liberty, Property and No Stamp," was raised on a new staff and, to perpetuate the event, the bridge was given the name "Liberty Bridge."

A new pole succeeded the first on July 4, 1824, and a third, the present pole was erected in 1899.

The filling of old Puddle Dock completely removed the necessity of the bridge, until now only the pole remains to mark its existence.

## The William Pitt Tavern

**T**HIS building on land purchased from Hon. Theodore Atkinson in 1765, was built in 1770 by John Stavers and opened "for the accommodation of genteel travelers." It was called the "Earl of Halifax," second of the name, and as the proprietor was an Englishman by birth, it came to be the meeting place of the Portsmouth Tories and Officers of the Crown. The jealousy of the Sons of Liberty was so aroused that on a day in 1777 a mob sur-



ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL

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THE LORD HOUSE



STRAWBERRY BANK AND ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

rounded the hotel and, with an axe, made an attack upon the foot of the sign post. Mr. Stavers gave a like weapon to one of his black slaves, directing him to defend the property, and to cut down anyone who molested it. A blow on the head of the patriot axe-wielder, which made him insane for the following forty years of his life, brought down the wrath of the mob forthwith upon the establishment. The terrified slave was discovered, after long search, standing immersed to his chin in a rain barrel in the tavern cellar; the landlord was found to have fled on unsaddled steed in the direction of Greenland, whence two riders were sent in pursuit, and after the mob had departed, the tavern was left signless, windowless and desolate.

After the excitement of the populace had been calmed by Captain Langdon and other patriots, Stavers was induced to return, whereupon the Committee of Safety seized him and placed him in Exeter jail. Upon taking the oath of allegiance, he came once more to his hotel, refitted it, replaced the "Earl of Halifax" with "William Pitt," and soon had the good will of his fellow citizens and the patronage of the country's men at arms.

In 1782, when the French fleet rode in Portsmouth harbor, the Marquis De Lafayette came here from Providence to visit some of its officers. Here, too, have stayed John Hancock, Elbridge Gerry and General Knox. In the time of the French Revolution there called Louis Philippe and his two brothers, but finding the hotel full, they took quarters with Governor Langdon.

In the year 1789, President Washington made a final complimentary visit upon General John Sullivan, President of New Hampshire, and his Council at the "William Pitt."

In the upper room of the hotel were held for several years the meetings of St. John's Lodge, Portsmouth's historic Masonic Organization, and also the early meetings of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire.

## The Bailey House

**K**OWN to all readers of the incomparable "Story of a Bad Boy" as the Nutter House, this was the boyhood home of Thomas Bailey Aldrich, owned by his grandfather, and, by his statement, erected about the middle of the eighteenth century. Used as a home by the Society for the Benefit of Orphan and Destitute Children from 1877-1883, then as a hospital, until the present Cottage Hospital was constructed, the building was purchased by the Thomas Bailey Aldrich Memorial Association in 1908 and carefully refurnished in minutest detail according to the manner of the "Bad Boy's" home.

## The Site of the Great House

**O**N the southwest corner of State and Water Streets stood "The Great House," the first house erected within the present limits of Portsmouth, built in the year 1631, by Humphrey Chadbourn, Agent of John Mason, the Proprietor of the Province, and occupied by Thomas Warnerton. The farm connected with the house contained about one thousand acres, and comprised what is now the compact portion of the City. The field, extending from the Great House along the river and beyond what is now Church Hill, produced a large quantity of strawberries, on which account it was called Strawberry Bank, and the town itself was commonly called by the inhabitants of the neighboring towns "The Bank" until the middle of the eighteenth century.

Succeeding Thomas Warnerton in the occupancy of the Great House in 1644, Sampson Lane, one of Mason's former stewards, occupied it until 1646, when he embarked for England. Richard Cutt, brother of President John Cutt, then removed from the Isles of Shoals and lived at the house from 1647 to 1676. The house then passed into the possession of

John Cutt, who, by his will of 1680, gave it to his son Samuel, apparently in a dilapidated condition, for, in 1685, it is recorded that the house had fallen down and the ruins were then visible.

## State Street

ONE of Portsmouth's oldest thoroughfares is the street now named State, once called Buck, and earlier Queen Street. Before the fire of 1813, it was very narrow, twenty-five feet at its widest point, and was the chief street for Portsmouth trade. That brick houses line both sides of the way from Pleasant Street to the river, is due to a vote of the town, passed after the disastrous fire which burned all the houses to Water Street, that no wooden houses over one story in height should be erected in this compact part of the town.

## The Site of the Henry Sherburne House

ON the southeast corner of State and Water Streets, on the site of the present coal office, stood one of the town's eminent structures. It was the first brickhouse erected in the town and was owned by Honorable Samuel Penhallow, "First of His Majesty's Council," who married Mary Cutt, daughter of President John Cutt, and died in 1726.

After the Revolution, Portsmouth's growing commerce caused the formation of a company called the Proprietors of the Portsmouth Pier, which purchased the ancient mansion and converted it into a public house called the New Hampshire Hotel. This hotel stood at the head of Portsmouth Pier, a structure extending into the river three hundred and forty feet, with a breadth of sixty-five feet, and having upon it a building three hundred and twenty feet in length, thirty feet in breadth, and three stories high.

This imposing wharf edifice, it has been said, "was not at that day equalled by anything in New England, not excepting the warehouses of Boston." Hither came the

commerce of Portsmouth's merchants from Europe, South America, and the East and West Indies. The vessels engaged in foreign trade belonging to the City numbered, in 1800, no less than twenty-eight ships, forty-seven brigs, ten schooners and one bark, while twenty craft were engaged in the coasting trade. Filled with the merchandise of the period—liquors, molasses, sugar, salt, coffee and yellow ochre—the Pier Stores, together with the Hotel and Pier itself, offered the last fuel for the flames of the 1813 conflagration.

## The Site of the First Earl of Halifax Tavern

THE first tavern, built by John Stavers, was kept on lower State Street, then called Queen, from about the year 1755 until the completion of the Court Street "Earl of Halifax." From this earlier hospitality departed the first stage chair which was run regularly from any town this side of Boston, starting its trips in April, 1761. The handbill advertising this improvement in transportation bears the title "For the Encouragement of Trade from Portsmouth to Boston. A large stage chair, with two good horses well equipped, will be ready Monday the 20th instant to start out from Mr. Stavers, Inn-holder, at the sign of the 'Earl of Halifax,' in this town for Boston, to perform once a week, to lodge at Ipswich the same night, from thence through Medford to Charlestown ferry, to tarry at Charlestown till Thursday morning so as to return to this town the next day; to set out again on the Monday following; it will be contrived to carry four persons beside the driver—the price will be Thirteen Shil. Six Pence sterling for each person from hence to Boston, and at the same rate of conveyance back again: though under no obligation to return in the same week in the same manner. . . ."

In May, 1763, was displayed the advertisement, "The Portsmouth Flying Stage Coach. Is now finished and will carry six

## Vignettes of Portsmouth

persons inside, runs with four or six horses, each person to pay 13S. 6d to Boston, and 4S. 6d to Newbury. Sets out from the sign of the Earl of Halifax every Tuesday morning between 7 and 8 o'clock, goes through Newbury to Boston and will put up at inns on the road where good entertainment and attendance are provided for the passengers in the coach. The subscriber master of the stage coach is to be spoke with from Saturday night to Monday night at Mr. John Stavers, Inn-holder, at the sign of the Earl of Halifax. Bartholomew Stavers."

### The Great Fire of 1813

ON the site of the Unitarian Church stood, before 1813, the Moses Woodward house, where started Portsmouth's Great Conflagration, supposedly kindled by a domestic who had taken offence because her mistress took from her some bottles of wine given her by a gentleman boarder at the house. On the night of December 22, about half past seven, flames bursting from the barn of the Woodward house collected a crowd of citizens, whose exertions soon grew ineffectual as the fire spread to the house of Honorable Daniel Webster and that of Thomas Haven, both in Pleasant Street, and enveloped completely the Woodward house itself. Burning until half past five on December 23, and consuming one hundred and eight dwelling houses, sixty-four stores and one hundred barns, it swept over a space of fifteen acres to stop at the river's very edge. "The respectable inhabitants of Newburyport, Exeter, Dover, Durham and Berwick as well as those of neighboring towns hastened with assistance"; "the companies from Exeter and Dover brought their engines and were very instrumental in saving the south part of the town." "Forty persons arrived from Salem about three o'clock, having traveled forty-eight miles in six hours."

Interesting comment is made on the brilliant illumination produced in the extraordinarily clear atmosphere of that night. Seen

at Boston, people supposed the fire to be in Charlestown. In Ipswich and Gloucester books could be read; in Providence, one hundred miles away, the light was visible. In a town ten miles beyond Windsor, Vermont, people who saw it mounted horses and rode to Windsor expecting to be of use to people there suffering from the fire.

The loss was estimated at \$300,000, and insurance was held by very few persons. Donations were received from all the large cities, as far distant as Philadelphia, and more than one hundred towns, in amount exceeding \$77,000, about one-quarter of the loss.

**1910186**

### St. John's Chapel

UPON the site where once stood the house of Reverend John Emerson, later owned by Jacob Sheafe and destroyed in the fire of 1813, this chapel was erected in 1832. The Brattle Organ, used to the present day in the chapel, was installed four years later. This historic instrument was brought to Boston in August, 1713, and presented to the Queen's Chapel by Thomas Brattle, Esq. So great were the public prejudices against instrumental music that the organ remained in the porch of the church for seven months unpacked. In 1714, however, it was put up and regularly used in that church, which, after Queen Anne's reign ended, received the name it now bears of the King's Chapel. In 1756, the organ was sold to St. Paul's Church, Newburyport, where it was used eighty years, then sold once more and put up at St. John's Church.

This instrument, with its original pipes and wind chest even now in perfect order, was the first organ introduced into New England, and probably the first erected in any of the Colonies.

### The Unitarian Church

IN 1824, the society then worshipping in the South Meeting House, the successors of the party who had remained in

## Vignettes of Portsmouth

the old Meeting House at the Mill Dam in 1712, erected this stone church on the site of the kindling flames of the Great Fire. Since its construction, it has had but four pastors, Reverend Nathan Parker, 1824-1849; Reverend Andrew P. Peabody, 1849-1860, well known as Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard University; Reverend James De Normandie, 1860-1883, and since that date, the Reverend Alfred Gooding.

### The Old Brick School House

**T**O obtain a building for a school house, in the year 1735, the town exchanged the lot of land on Daniel Street, which had been given to it by Bridget Graffort, daughter of President Cutt, for the one story wooden structure on this site owned by Ebenezer Wentworth.

In this ancient school house, Major Samuel Hale, born in 1718, graduate of Harvard College in 1740, and commander of a company of New Hampshire provincials at the expedition to Cape Breton in 1745, began in 1748 a term of service which extended for forty years. During this time, it is said that he imparted instruction to several thousand scholars, among them John Langdon, Woodbury Langdon, John Pierce, and most of the other distinguished Portsmouth merchants. He is said never to have offered a candidate for admission to college who was rejected.

In the year 1787, the father of Salmon P. Chase, Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, was teaching here. In 1790, a building of brick replaced the old wooden school which, after being partially burned in 1813, was rebuilt in its present form.

### The Spence House

**W**ITH date of erection not known, this building merits interest as the residence of Robert Trail, Comptroller of the Port of Portsmouth until the Revolution.

His wife was the sister of General William Whipple.

In the year 1766, the Government gave to Trail the exclusive right to brew strong beer in the Province of New Hampshire. The old building at the rear of the house, very recently removed, bore the name of the Brewery. Robert Trail, as a Crown Official, was opposed to the Revolution, and left the Province upon the outbreak of hostilities; while his daughter, who had married Keith Spence, a Scotchman, lived in this house. Their daughter, Harriet Spence, married here, in 1806, Reverend Doctor Lowell. James Russell Lowell was their son.

### The Site of the Old Almshouse

**O**N April 9, 1711, the town voted to build an almshouse, which, by 1716, we find was in use on the present site of Music Hall at the corner of Chestnut and Porter Streets. This was the first pauper workhouse erected in this country, and it is believed that no other country at that time possessed one, for not until 1723 was the act passed in England which authorized the establishment of the parish workhouses.

The house was abandoned in 1755, when the new almshouse was erected on the site now occupied by the Old Court House, in Court Street.

### The Rockingham House

**H**ERE stood the residence of Honorable Woodbury Langdon, elder brother of Governor John Langdon, who, born in 1739, served as member of the Continental Congress, in 1779-1780, and later as Judge of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire. In the year 1781, the house was destroyed by fire, but was rebuilt in 1785, and occupied by Mr. Langdon until his death in 1805.

In 1830, a company purchased the property, and made it into a public house,



THE LADD HOUSE



THE WARNER HOUSE

calling it by the name it now bears. Forty years later the hotel was purchased by Honorable Frank Jones, who remodelled and enlarged it, keeping intact the dining-room, which Mr. Langdon had used. In 1884, fire damaged the building, but the Colonial dining-room was left, while the main building was wholly rebuilt.

## The Samuel Lord House

IN 1730, was built this gambrel-roof house by Captain Purcell, a well-known merchant. After his death, his widow maintained it as a boarding house, and, in 1779, entertained Captain John Paul Jones, during his stay in Portsmouth, while he impatiently awaited the building of the frigate "America" on Badgers Island.

Honorable John Langdon later owned the house, then Samuel Lord, Cashier of the Piscataqua Bank, and its successors, for fifty years; during part of which time he was also Treasurer of the Portsmouth Savings Bank.

## The Mason House

JEREMIAH MASON, the eminent lawyer, came to Portsmouth in 1797, and in 1808 erected this mansion. Five years later, he was elected to the United States Senate from New Hampshire, but in 1832, changed his residence from Portsmouth to Boston, where he died in 1845.

A contemporary estimate is placed on this Portsmouth citizen in Daniel Webster's Autobiography. Webster says, "As a lawyer, as a jurist, no man in the Union equalled, and but one approached him," referring in the last phrase to Chief Justice Marshall of the United States Supreme Court.

## Haymarket Square

IN the year 1755, "a Haymarket with convenient scales for weighing, was erected at the lower end of Islington Road and near Middle Road," thus giving the

name to the square. The scales were maintained for about one hundred years.

Here, on September 12, 1765, was hung the effigy of George Meserve, who had been appointed Stamp Agent for the sale of tax stamps in New Hampshire. Accompanying him were the effigies of Lord Bute, the head of the British Ministry, which had passed the act so hated by the Colonies, and the devil, who was popularly believed to be the instigator of the act. Hanging throughout the day, the three effigies were carried through town in the evening and publicly burned.

## The Langley Boardman House

ERECTED early in the nineteenth century by Langley Boardman, former cabinet maker, who, in the firm of Boardman & Miller, developed into a house builder of note. He was in later life a New Hampshire Councillor and State Senator.

The hall paper of this house, hung in 1816, showing scenes from Scott's "Lady of the Lake," is still preserved, one of the most interesting examples of the elaborate picture papers of the period.

## Market Street

CALLED originally Paved Street as far as Bow Street, and Fore Street from there to the ferry, Market Street was in 1802 the scene of a disastrous fire which started in the New Hampshire bank building on the site of the present Portsmouth Savings Bank. All the buildings on both sides of Market Street as far as the Moffat House were lost, all at the west end of Bow Street, and all on both sides of Ladd Street save one.

The character of the early streets of the town may be understood by the fact that, after the fire the street was more than doubled to give its present width.

The room above the present store of Henry Peyser & Son was once the law office of Daniel Webster.

## The Larkin House

BEFORE 1813, stood here a house occupied by Colonel Joshua Wentworth until his death in 1809. In the year 1815, Samuel Larkin, who, after marrying Colonel Joshua Wentworth's daughter, had bought the estate, erected the present brick house.

Mr. Larkin had been sales agent for prizes and their cargoes captured by Portsmouth privateers in the War of 1812. That this was a profitable trade is witnessed by the fact that fourteen vessels of the privateer fleet captured four hundred and nineteen prizes. In the year 1829, Mr. Larkin removed to the wooden dwelling next door, and his dwelling was sold to a Mr. Hurd of Exeter.

His daughter married Henry Ladd, whose name is commonly used in the title of the house.

## Richards Avenue

CALLED in its beginning Cow Lane, then in the year 1830 Joshua Street, in memory of Colonel Joshua Wentworth, this street became Auburn Street, when the cemetery was called the Auburn Cemetery.

In 1861, the elm trees on either side of the street were set out through the personal exertions of Doctor R. O. Treadwell and Henry L. Richards, who later was a member of the 2d United States Sharp Shooters. He fell on July 2, 1863, in the first day's fighting at Gettysburg, and the street's name was changed to Richards Avenue in his memory.

## The Francis House

ON Union Street, once called Anthony, stands a house built soon after the War of 1812 by John and Nathaniel A. Haven for a negro named John Francis, who had been a member of the crew on a merchantman belonging to the Havens, at the time of its capture by a British privateer. The ship was manned by a prize crew and ordered to a port on the Southern Coast for

sale. The negro, knowing the location of the money obtained from the sale of the ship's cargo, found opportunity to hide this in a slush tub on deck. Upon arrival at the port, Francis applied for the tub, saying he wished to sell it and get small change to keep him for a day or two. Leaving the ship with the tub on his shoulders, he soon had the money in a bank, and informed the Havens that it was deposited subject to their order. In gratitude for the faithful service, the merchants built this house for John Francis, and in it he dwelt many years.

## The Site of the Pound and Gallows

IN the triangular ground formed by the junction of South and Middle Roads, about twenty-five feet east from the point of junction, was located the Pound, constructed of natural stone about twenty-five by thirty feet. Probably fifty feet east of the Pound was the Gallows, where were carried out the first executions that ever took place in New Hampshire. Two women were executed on December 27, 1739, and on May 8, 1755, one Eliphaaz Dow of Hampton Falls was hung at the gallows and buried on the north side of the hill about seventy-five feet away.

## Spring Market

FROM the time of the town's first settlement, the hill at the corner of Market and Bow Streets was called Spring Hill because of the ever flowing spring which the early colonists found there. "In the year 1761, the town built a house for a market on Spring Hill, one story high." In 1796, the town empowered a committee to "sell and convey all land on Spring Hill where the old market stood." The house at that time was moved to the river and enlarged to serve as market place for the country traders who came by boat from Kittery and Eliot.

From the wharf at the market, sailing boats with latteen sails were used to conduct

passenger and freight service to Dover, erwick, Durham and Newmarket. Exeter as reached once a week, and the fare for ansportation was twelve and one-half ents.

About 1830, the old market was moved Nobles Island, and one of Portsmouth's lost picturesque institutions disappeared. modern days the ferry to Kittery leaves om the site of the old market.

## The Moffat House

THE house, now in the possession of the Society of the Colonial Dames of New Hampshire, was built in 1763 by Captain John Moffat, who had come to America commander of one of the King's mast ships which took, for use in the Royal Navy, their cargoes of masts in Pepperell's Cove at Kittery Point. Captain Moffat married Catherine, daughter of Robert Cutt, 2d, and settled in Portsmouth, where he prospered and lived to the age of ninety-four years. The year after the completion of the house, Captain Moffat's son Samuel married Sarah, daughter of Colonel John Tufton Mason, descendant of the Provincial Proprietor, and lived here five years. At that time his business of ship owner was so unprofitable that he failed, and to avoid the severe debtor laws fled to the West Indies.

At the sale of the house, Captain John Moffat bid it in, and moved hither from what is now State Street, bringing his daughter, Catherine, who later married General William Whipple.

General William Whipple was born in Kittery in 1730, and early followed the career of a sailor. Before he was twenty-one he had command of a vessel and made many voyages to Europe and the Indies, as well engaging in the slave trade and importing negroes from Africa. Leaving the sea in 1759, he was engaged in trade with his brother, when the growing discontent of the Colonies enlisted his sympathies. Elected member of the Congress which met in Philadelphia in 1775, he was chosen mem-

ber of the Provincial Congress, which assumed the government after the commencement of hostilities. Re-elected to Congress in 1776, he signed the Declaration of Independence. The following year, he was given by the State command of the First Brigade of its militia, and marched against Burgoyne, but soon after his arrival in camp the British general surrendered. Whipple was selected as one of the officers to guard the captive troops to Winter Hill near Boston. Serving after the Revolution as Judge of the Supreme Court, he died very suddenly November 10, 1785, leaving no children. Tradition affirms that he personally planted the horse-chestnut trees now before the house.

The following year, Captain John Moffat died, and the estate was plunged into a long litigation. The court finally decided in favor of the executors and against Madame Whipple, who removed to the Plains, leaving Robert Cutt, a son of Samuel Moffat, in possession.

Doctor Nathaniel A. Haven, Member of Congress, later purchased the estate from Moffat, and gave it to his eldest daughter, Mary Tufton, the wife of Alexander Ladd, whose descendants held the property until the recent conveyance to the Society of the Colonial Dames.

The house was the first square three-story house in New Hampshire, and is of unusual architectural interest. The hall is a reproduction of the hall in Captain Moffat's father's house in England, and the carved mantelpiece in the living-room was attributed to Grinling Gibbons, a celebrated architect of about 1666.

Almost as well known as General Whipple in Portsmouth were two of his slaves, Prince and Cuffee. Brought from Africa before 1766, when they were about ten years old, the General took Prince with him on the expedition against the British, and gave him his freedom at that time. After the General's death, Prince and Cuffee lived in a small house, on land given them at the foot of the garden on High Street.

## The Thomas Sheafe House

BUILT by Thomas Sheafe, son of Jacob Sheafe, a prominent merchant of the city, this house recalls the important event of the close of the eighteenth century in Portsmouth. In 1798, arrived at Sheafe's wharf, situated opposite the house, his ship "Mentor" from Martinique, where yellow fever was raging. The quarantine regulations were not carefully regarded at that time, and the ship came up to the wharf immediately, and started discharging the cargo of sugar, molasses and coffee. A laborer was stricken with a strange malady, and soon another had like symptoms. The owner of the ship was unwilling to believe that his vessel had brought the dreaded fever until two sons and his only daughter were dead. The Selectmen sent the ship off, and had her cleaned, but it was too late. During August and September ninety-six persons were stricken, and of these fifty-five cases proved fatal. People deserted the locality and many families left the town. The scenes in the street were likened to those at the time of the Plague in London. After a death, the body was hastily wrapped in a tarred sheet, put into a rough box, and slid from a window to a cart, and hurried to a long trench in the North Cemetery which held in common resting-place all the victims. Finally a frost, on October 5, brought the epidemic to an end.

## The Stone Store

ON this site stood a building occupied as residence and Custom House by Eleazer Russell, for some years the only postmaster in New Hampshire. All letters were deposited at this solitary postoffice, and were sent for from the other towns in the state. Performing the duties of Collector of Customs, the officer then bearing the title Naval Officer, Russell served from 1778-1798, giving great dignity to the position in his ceremonious dispatch of

business. Fearing the smallpox and foreign epidemics profoundly, he always received the papers from ships of over seas with a pair of tongs, subjected them to a thorough smoking before he examined them. An ironical fate, however, overtook him, for the death from yellow fever of his sister and one other person at his house, in the year of the Plague, so affrighted Mr. Russell that he died suddenly in the same week, though it is said he himself had not taken the fever at the time.

It is supposed that the old Custom House was one of the original buildings built by President John Cutt, that mentioned in his will of 1680 as the New Warehouse. John Cutt, owner of the greater part of Portsmouth in his time, was commissioned President by King Charles II, at the time the King and Council determined to erect New Hampshire into a jurisdiction separate from Massachusetts. The Commission, reaching Portsmouth June 1, 1680, was the only charter ever granted to the Province of New Hampshire.

## The Meserve Webster House

BUILT in 1760, this was in 1765 the home of George Meserve, son of Colonel Nathaniel Meserve, a leader in the expedition against the French. George Meserve, being in England in 1765, and ignorant of the sentiment in America against the Stamp Act, accepted the appointment as Stamp Master for New Hampshire. Before landing in Boston, he heard of the opposition to that measure and resigned his office. This action was not generally known, for on September 12 occurred the public demonstration and burning of the effigies as elsewhere told. Upon his arrival in Portsmouth, September 18, he was compelled to make a public resignation of the office before a large concourse of people on the Parade. Upon the actual arrival of his commission, people still feared that he would accept the office, and on the 9th of January, 1766,



THE JACKSON HOUSE



THE GOVERNOR BENNING WENTWORTH HOUSE



THE SIR WILLIAM PEPPERELL HOUSE

## Vignettes of Portsmouth

waited upon him and demanded his papers. He was obliged to make oath "publicly administered by Wyseman Clagget, Esq., that he would not directly or indirectly attempt to execute the office." After carrying the commission through the streets on the point of a sword, it was sent to the agents of the Province in England for their disposal.

A comparison with modern methods of news transmission is found in the statement that the information of the repeal of the Stamp Act on March 18, 1766, reached Portsmouth by express from Boston on the 14th of April.

Before 1800, this house was occupied by James Sheafe, a United States Senator, who had married the daughter of George Meserve.

Doctor Nathaniel A. Haven also dwelt here until he built his house on High Street. From 1800-1808, Jeremiah Mason, the eminent lawyer, had his residence here, and was followed by Daniel Webster, who brought to this house his bride, Grace Fletcher. They remained until Webster purchased the house at Court and Pleasant Streets. The steps now placed before the house had earlier use at the west end of the old State House which stood in the Parade 1758-1834.

### The Assembly House

DIVIDED into two parts since 1834, this structure was built in 1750 and used, until its division, for all the assemblies, musical festivals and theatrical entertainments. In President Washington's diary is the entry for November 3, 1789, "at half-past seven I went to the Assembly, where there were about seventy-five well dressed and many handsome ladies," his description of the ball of great splendor given in his honor by Portsmouth citizens.

Originally the two houses formed a building forty-one feet by sixty feet, fronting on the street, two stories high. The upper story higher than the ground floor

contained the assembly hall, which extended the whole length of the building and about thirty feet in its width. The hall, twelve feet wide, passed through the building and opened on a garden at the rear. The staircase led from here to the assembly room above.

In 1838, the roof was removed and the upper story cut down, the hall was given up, and the southerly half of the house moved eight feet away to leave the present Raits Court with the two parts of the Assembly on either side. The roofs were replaced to run across the buildings instead of parallel with the street as in the old structure, and thus passed from sight one of the most interesting structures of the Colonial Town.

It was on the afternoon preceding the ball in honor of President Washington that a banquet was served here for the distinguished guests. To quote again from Washington's diary, "about two o'clock, I received an address from the Executive of the State of New Hampshire and, in half an hour after dined with them and a large company at their Assembly room, which is one of the best I have seen anywhere in the United States."

### The Colonel Joshua Wentworth House

BUILT in 1770, by Colonel Joshua Wentworth, this was his residence until he erected the house on Middle Street on the site of the brick Larkin House.

It is related that "a grand entertainment" was given here when Governor John Hancock and his family were spending a week in Portsmouth. An event of the evening was the dancing of a minuet by the Governor's son, a lad of five or six years, richly attired; "probably the last display of his skill in this branch of education for a few days after his return to Boston he suddenly expired."

In 1776, Joshua Wentworth was Colonel of the first New Hampshire regiment, and later served as Representative and State Senator. He was commissioned in 1791

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

by Washington Supervisor for the United States in the district of New Hampshire.

## The Boston and Maine Station

BEFORE the Revolution, this was the site of two ropewalks extending from Vaughan Street to the North Pond, and used until after the War of 1812. Here the cordage for the seventy-four gun ship "Washington" was made, and from this manufactory the cable carried through the streets on the shoulders of eighty sailors.

Here were held the Fourth of July public dinners, during the War of 1812, when tables were laid through five hundred feet of the walk, and seven hundred seats were occupied.

In 1840, the Eastern Railroad was built from Boston, and a wooden depot was erected on the site of the ropewalks. This depot had on it a belfry from which a bell was rung just previous to the departure of all trains. Two years after the arrival of the Eastern Railroad, the Portland, Saco and Portsmouth Railroad was opened to Portland, and, in 1873, the Portsmouth and Dover line was completed. In the year 1863, the present station was erected.

## The Jackson House

THE oldest house now standing in the limits of Portsmouth was erected in the year 1664 by Richard Jackson, on a part of his twenty-six acre estate. Its location is typical of early conditions when the waterways served as roads, and the dwellings were placed not far from the shores of the river or its inlets.

## Christian Shore

THIS unusual title, relying upon the Rambler's authority, harks back to the time when there were few families beyond the North Mill Bridge, and of these, several were strict adherents to Puritan prin-

ciples. The more jovially inclined were often found late at night at Foss's tavern enjoying their flip, but when the hour for parting arrived, the frequent remark was, "Well, we must leave for Christian shore," and from this sarcastic designation that part of Portsmouth received its name.

## The Boyd-Raynes House

COL. NATHANIEL MESERVE, shipbuilder and soldier of early Portsmouth, built this his dwelling in the year 1740. Behind the house was his shipyard where, with other vessels, he built in 1749 the fifty-gun man-of-war "America" for the Royal Navy. In the capture of Louisburg from the French in 1745, he was Lieutenant-Colonel of the regiment which New Hampshire raised for the expedition, and in 1758 he sailed for the second siege of the place with one hundred and eight carpenters. Soon after the arrival at Cape Breton, "his whole party, except sixteen, were seized with smallpox, of which disorder Colonel Meserve and his eldest son died."

The house was purchased in that year by Peter Livius, and ten years later, 1768, passed into the ownership of Colonel George Boyd, who extended the garden to the present site of the Boston and Maine Station. From the many buildings of one color which he erected, his estate was always known as the "White Village." During the Revolution Colonel Boyd found it convenient to live in England, but upon the conclusion of peace, decided to return, bringing a new and handsome coach, an English coachman and gardener, and "an elegant monumet for his grave at some future time." He found an earlier use for this possession than he anticipated, for two days before the arrival of the ship, on October 8, 1787, he died, and took his place in the North Cemetery instead of in his magnificent mansion with its spacious garden.

In the year 1832, George Raynes bought the estate, and maintained a shipyard which

# Vignettes of Portsmouth

up to 1865 had constructed between sixty and seventy vessels, the largest of which was the "Webster" of 1727 tons, built in 1853.

## The Governor Levi Woodbury House

BUILT in 1809 by Captain Samuel Ham, who after a banquet given in the house to celebrate its completion, hung himself in one of the upper rooms, the house was purchased by Honorable Levi Woodbury when he came to Portsmouth in 1819. This most prominent of Portsmouth's citizens was born in Francestown 1789, and was Governor of New Hampshire 1823-1824. He was United States Senator from 1825-1831, and in that year became Secretary of the Navy. Under President Jackson, he was Secretary of the Treasury in 1834, and in 1841 began a ten-year term as justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Further honors he might have achieved, for he was the most prominent candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination when he died in the year 1851.

## Portsmouth Plains

IN early years of Portsmouth history, a number of settlers had gathered here and erected their houses, barns, and a Garrison House. On June 26, 1696, this settlement was the scene of an Indian massacre, when five houses and nine barns were burned by a party of Indians who came from York to Sandy Beach, now called Rye, in canoes which they secreted among the bushes the night preceding. Before daylight, the assault was made on five houses at the same time, the people running out were attacked and fourteen killed, but the rest reached the Garrison House situated on a knoll north of the old Sherburne house. The Indians, after plundering the houses, retreated through Great Swamp four or five miles with four prisoners. They stopped on the declivity of a hill

to prepare some breakfast, the circumstance which ever since has given the title "Breakfast Hill" to the eminence, and here they were overtaken by a company of militia under Captain Shackford. The pursuers rescued the prisoners and the plunder, but the Indians hid themselves in the swamp until night, when they returned to their canoes. A party in boats going out to intercept them caused the canoes to alter their course, and the Indians escaped by going around the Isles of Shoals.

One of the Plain's inhabitants was Mrs. Mary Brewster, who, severely wounded and scalped by the Indians, was left for dead, but who lived until 1744 and died then in her eighty-second year.

During the period when Portsmouth owned slaves, at one time to the number of one hundred and fifty, they met on Portsmouth Plains each year to choose their officers—a King, a Sheriff, and a Deputy—each having certain authority over the black population.

The tavern, now in ruins, was called, in 1708, the King George, and from 1773-1839, the Globe. In this time, the Plains were used as a training field for the annual musters, and during the War of 1812, long barracks were erected for the drafted New Hampshire militia.

## Stoodley's Tavern

THIS building was erected in 1761, after fire had destroyed a building similar in construction and use, a tavern kept by Colonel James Stoodley. This was the most fashionable hotel in Portsmouth, and was the stopping-place for travelers between Boston and places in Maine. The upper story, lighted by dormer windows, formed a large, arched hall, used for musical gatherings and social assemblies before the erection of the Assembly House on Vaughan Street. After the death of Colonel Stoodley, Honorable Elijah Hall, who had married the Colonel's daughter Elizabeth, lived here until his death in 1830. He had been

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a Lieutenant under John Paul Jones on the "Ranger," was later a State Councillor, and was Naval Officer for the port of Portsmouth until he was eighty years old.

His niece Dorothy was one of the quilting party which made an American flag from pieces of silk dresses, and presented it to Captain John Paul Jones to hoist on the "Ranger," July 4, 1777. These colors, the first to fly in foreign waters and receive a salute from an alien government, were transferred to the "Bon homme Richard" and were flying in the action between that ship and the "Serapis."

### The Weeks House

ON land formerly within the borders of Portsmouth, but now called Greenland, stands the Weeks house, built in 1638, the oldest house in New Hampshire. It is on the old highway to Exeter and is constructed of bricks which are said to have been burned in the dooryard of the house. With walls eighteen inches thick in the lower story, it doubtless served as the Garrison House for the settlement. The crack in the west wall was caused by an earthquake in the year 1765.

### The Jaffrey House

**G**EORGE JAFFREY, 2d, born in the old Jaffrey house at Newcastle, Treasurer of the Royal Province of New Hampshire, and later Chief Justice of the Superior Court, erected this house in 1730. His son of the same name lived here until his death in 1802, and also was Treasurer of the Province before the Revolution, and was one of the purchasers of the Mason patent to New Hampshire. He is said to have remained a Tory as long as he lived. Without direct heirs, he purposed leaving his large estate to Colonel Joshua Wentworth, but, when, as bondsman, he was compelled to meet Colonel Wentworth's liabilities, he became so embittered that he revised his will, and left all his property to his nephew and namesake, George Jaffrey

Jeffries, of Boston, then thirteen years old, on condition that he should cease to use the name Jeffries, that he should become a permanent resident of Portsmouth, and that he should follow no other occupation than that of gentleman. The conditions of the will were carefully kept, and this George Jaffrey, fourth of the name, lived here until his death in 1856.

### Daniel Street

**A**S a public street, this came as a present to the town in the year 1700. In that year, Bridget Graffort, daughter of Richard Cutt, expressed her intention thus, "for divers good causes and considerations me herewith moving, but more especially for the love and affection I have unto the town of Portsmouth, the place of my birth, I have given unto the said township of Portsmouth, forever, all the byway, or street, from the Fort at Strawberry Bank in said town" (which once stood in Market Square) "running easterly nearest to the river Piscataqua, as it is now being laid out and fenced."

For fifty years after the street was opened it bore the name Graffort Lane, then was given the name Daniel Street, the name of Bridgett Cutt's first husband.

### St. John's Church

**I**N 1732, on the land now called Church Hill, which as early as 1633 had given the name Strawberry Bank to the town, owing to the large quantities of wild strawberries to be found here, "a number of gentlemen attached to the Episcopal church erected a building for the purpose of conducting public services agreeable to that form.

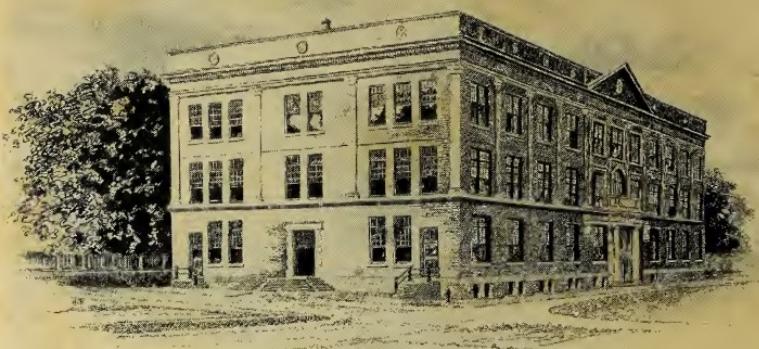
Queen Caroline, consort of George II, presented a service of plate for use at the altar, stamped with the Royal Arms. In her honor, the building received the name Queen's Chapel. The "vinegar Bible," so-called because the word vinegar occurs in place of vineyard in the page-heading, "The



FORT CONSTITUTION GATE



FORT POINT



THE PEACE CONFERENCE BUILDING

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"Parable of the Vineyard" was received at the same time. Few copies were issued thus uncorrected.

Soon after the completion of the building, in the year 1736, Reverend Arthur Brown came as rector, and remained until his death in 1773, at the age of seventy-four.

In 1745, a bell captured at Louisburg from the French was presented by the officers of the New Hampshire Regiment and hung in the belfry. After the fire of 1806, the bell was recast by Paul Revere in Boston, and in 1896 was again recast with three hundred pounds of metal added.

In 1761, the two daughters of Colonel John Tufton Mason presented to the church the baptismal font of porphyritic marble. This was taken by Colonel Mason at the capture of Senegal from the French in 1858, and is thought to be of great antiquity.

When the chapel was built "the center of the pews on the north was raised above the rest, a heavy wooden canopy built over it bearing the royal arms, and red plush curtains were festooned around it." This, the Governor's Pew, had two chairs presented by the Queen for the use of the Governor and his Secretary. During the Revolution no regular services were held, and soon after the Peace, a sign "Warden's Pew" replaced the Lion and Unicorn. President George Washington, with his Secretary, Tobias Lear, occupied the pew and chairs when they attended services on November 1, 1789.

In 1791, the church was incorporated by the State with the name "St. John's Church."

On December 24, 1806, fire broke out in the store on Bow Street and communicated itself to other nearby buildings. During the conflagration, some burning shingles or other light stuff lodged on the steeple, and though every effort was made to throw water high enough to reach the blaze and an attempt made to cut down the steeple, the fire reached the main building and consumed it. One of the Queen's chairs, together with the plate, the font, and some other

movable articles were saved through the personal efforts of two men, and placed in the new structure.

On June 24, 1807, the corner-stone of the present building was laid with Masonic ceremony in the presence of Governor John Langdon. By 1808 the building was completed and many candidates offered themselves for the rectorship. In that year, a unanimous vote called Charles Burroughs, lay reader, to the position and, after being admitted to the Order of Deacons in 1809 and to the Order of Priests in 1812, he served as rector until his resignation in the year 1858.

## The Warner House

THIS house, which at the time of building "was scarcely surpassed by any private residence in New England," was built by Captain Archibald MacPheadriss, native of Scotland, member of the King's Council in 1722, and a prominent merchant. He was a leader in the first iron works in America, when the Lamprey River Iron Works were established under charter from the general court of Massachusetts in 1719, with a grant of land two miles wide at the Dover line. It is interesting to note that this land came into the possession of the town of Portsmouth as a result of the town's liberal contribution to Harvard College in 1672, after the burning of the library. In 1719, for the purpose of obtaining fuel, and for providing residences for workmen, whom the company intended to secure in Europe, the town asked an order from the General Court "for laying out the six mile square of land at the head of Oyster River, formerly granted by Massachusetts to the town of Portsmouth." The location of the land and the ancient business venture are preserved in the name of Gilmanton Iron Works.

This mansion was commenced in 1718 and finished in 1723 at an expense of £6,000. The brick used in the construction of the eighteen-inch walls was brought

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from Holland, with other of the materials.

Marrying Sarah, one of the sixteen children of Lieutenant Governor John Wentworth, Captain MacPheadris lived in his house but six years, for in 1729 he died, leaving a daughter, Mary. She married in 1754, Honorable Jonathan Warner, who was King's Councillor until the Revolution annulled his commission.

The hall of the house has most interesting frescoes of unknown origin, representing various subjects ; Governor Phipps on his charger, a lady at a spinning-wheel, a representation of Abraham offering up Isaac, and numerous others, which were covered by four layers of wall paper, and were accidentally discovered about 1850, when the removal of a small piece of the covering revealed a painted horse's hoof. In the hall hang enormous elk antlers presented to Captain MacPheadris by his Indian friends, while portraits of two Indians are supposed to picture the hunters with whom the first owner dealt in furs. "The lightning rod on the west end of the house was put up in 1762 under the personal inspection of Doctor Benjamin Franklin, and was probably the first put up in New Hampshire."

## Newcastle

At the time of the first settlement on the Piscataqua River, there had been but one town, "Portsmouth." On March 10, 1693, the inhabitants of Great Island petitioned the Lieutenant Governor, then John Usher, and his Council to be made a township by themselves, and on May 30 a grant was prepared, read in the King's Council, then signed by the Lieutenant Governor. The township thus granted was called Newcastle.

In 1821, the legislature passed an act incorporating the proprietors of the Newcastle bridge. In the following year, the three bridges, now reduced to two by the filling in of the final span, were opened for passengers, making the island town thus accessible.

In an ancient house on the river front once lived Boatswain Allen of John Paul Jones' ship "Ranger." Another interesting structure is the old Jaffrey House, now barely discernible in the midst of its additions. About 1665 dwelt here George Jaffrey who came hither from Newburyport and built this residence. He was speaker of the New Hampshire Assembly which frequently convened at Newcastle.

## The Governor Benning Wentworth House

At Little Harbor stands the mansion of fantastic architecture built by Governor Benning Wentworth in 1750. It had of old fifty-two rooms, now reduced in number to forty-five, and in its cellar thirty horses could be stabled in time of danger. Still forming the chief glory of the house is the Council Chamber where met the King's Council for the sixteen years Benning Wentworth lived here as Governor. It is related that the carving about the spacious fireplace required more than a year's time of one carpenter's knife and chisel. Adjoining are the ancient billiard room, and two diminutive card rooms.

Benning Wentworth, son of Lieutenant Governor John Wentworth, was born in 1695, and graduated from Harvard College in 1715. He was appointed Governor in 1741, the first to take the title changed from Lieutenant Governor.

The name of Governor Wentworth and Little Harbor is most widely spread by the poet Longfellow, who, in one of the "Tales of a Wayside Inn," narrates the tradition of the Governor's marriage with his house-keeper, Martha Hilton.

In the year 1766, though the Governor had not taken active part in the unpopular measures of the British ministry, some complaints were made, and his removal was decided upon. He obtained permission to resign, however, and was succeeded by his nephew, John Wentworth.

In 1770, he ended a life marked by

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much achievement. In the year 1745, he had been prompt in raising New Hampshire's troops for the successful expedition against Cape Breton, giving the command to Lieutenant Pepperell. Interested in education, he would have established a college in New Hampshire, but his views on its control did not accord with public sentiment; later, however, "he presented to Dartmouth College five hundred acres of land in Hanover, on which the college edifice and the adjacent buildings are erected." His twenty-five years term of office is a longer period by far than any other royal Governor in America held his commission.

At the time of President Washington's visit to Portsmouth in 1789, he went to this mansion, then owned by Colonel Michael Wentworth, descendant of the Wentworth line in England. He had fought at Culloden, in 1745, against James Stuart, and the following year, though on the losing side, had gained much honor by his conduct in the Battle of Fontenoy, when Marshall Saxe and the French defeated the English. Coming to America in 1767, he married, in 1770, the widow "of the late Governor Benning Wentworth, fixed his residence at Little Harbor, where he enjoyed during the remainder of his life *otium cum dignitate.*"

### **Fort William and Mary**

**I**N the year 1631, when the early settlers in New Hampshire were developing the new country, the English proprietors, Captain John Mason and Sir Fernando Gorges, "sent over several cannon and other warlike implements, which their agents placed on the northeast point of Great Island, at the mouth of the harbor, which they called Fort Point." After a visit from four English Commissioners appointed by the King to visit his Colonies of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, during which visit they received instruction from the King to have the harbor fortified, "at a general town meeting, June 19, 1666, for the better

carrying on the fortifications at Fort Point, it was consented unto and voted that every dweller and liver in this town, above the age of sixteen years, whether householder, child, servant of any other, shall and do hereby promise to work on the same one whole week between this and the last of October next ensuing." Thus from Colonial days a fort has guarded the harbor mouth, called "William and Mary" after 1694, and until the Revolution changed the name to "Fort Constitution."

December 14, 1774, here witnessed the first overt act against the British government in the War of the Revolution. In the afternoon of the preceding day, quoting a letter of Governor Wentworth, written a few days after, "one Paul Revere arrived express with letters from some of the leaders in Boston to Mr. Samuel Cutts, merchant of this town. Reports were soon circulated that the fort at Rhode Island had been dismantled, and an extract of the circular letter directing the seizure of gun powder was printed in a Boston newspaper of the 12th, and it was falsely given out that troops were embarking at Boston to come and take possession of William and Mary Castle in this harbor." The Committee of Safety with these dispatches in hand, and the copy of the King's order prohibiting the exportation of gun powder and military stores to America, determined upon the capture of the fort without delay.

"On Wednesday, the fourteenth, about twelve o'clock news was brought to me," writes the Governor, "that a Drum was beating about the town to collect the populace together in order to go and take away the Gunpowder and dismantle the Fort. I immediately sent the Chief-Justice of the Province to warn them from engaging in any such attempt. He went to them, where they were collected in the center of the town near the town house, explained to them the nature of the offence they purposed to commit, told them it was not short of rebellion, and entreated them to desist and disperse. But all to no purpose. They

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went to the Island, and being joined there by the individuals of the towns of Newcastle and Rye, formed in all a body of about four hundred men, and the Castle being in too weak a condition for defence, they forced their entrance in spite of Captain Cochrane, who having only the assistance of five men, they overpowered him." After they entered the fort, they seized upon the Captain triumphantly, gave three huzzas, and hauled down the King's colors. They then put the Captain and his men under confinement, broke open the Gunpowder magazine, and carried off about one hundred barrels of Gunpowder.

This expedition was under the leadership of Major John Langdon, Captain Thomas Pickering and Major John Sullivan. The following day, they visited the fort again and brought away sixteen pieces of cannon, about sixty muskets and other military stores. The ammunition was stored in various places in the surrounding country, and sent to the Continental Army before the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Before the War of 1812, the innermost brick fort was built. It was partially surrounded in Civil War days by a new stone fortification, but work was stopped before completion. Finally, during the Spanish War, the present disappearing gun battery was installed, and an opportunity is thus presented to compare the fort construction in three American wars.

## The Pepperell House

IN the town of Kittery is the home of Sir William Pepperell, Commander in Chief of the expedition against Cape Breton in 1745, for which the General Assembly of the Province issued bills in the sum of £13,000, and raised a regiment of about four hundred men. Assisted by much good fortune, the city of Louisburg was captured on June 17, after the army had been in the vicinity since late in March. "The news of this important victory was received throughout the British Provinces in America with every demonstration of joy." Pep-

perell and Warren, the English naval commanders, who shared in the victory, were created baronets, and Pepperell received a Commission as Colonel in the British Army.

## Portsmouth Navy Yard

IN the year 1806, the United States Government purchased this island which then, as Fernald's Island, had but one house on it, and was used for farming and drying fish. The first commandant was Captain Isaac Hull of "Constitution" fame. The construction of ships in the wooden navy was carried on in enormous shiphouses from which the completed ship was launched. Of the three houses which were erected at Portsmouth navy yard, only one is left, called the "Franklin Ship House" because from its ways was launched on September 17, 1864, the ship "Franklin," flag ship of Admiral Farragut. In the year 1862, the frigate "Kearsarge," after overhauling, sailed from Portsmouth for her battle with the Confederate cruiser "Alabama."

In the year 1870, on August 24, occurred at the commandant's house, the death of Admiral Farragut. On August 1, 1884, arrived Lieut. Adolphus Greeley, with his five fellow survivors of the Arctic Expedition. In 1897, the frigate "Constitution," which had been at this yard as Station Ship for fifteen years, was taken on a perilous trip to Boston, where she was given the equipment and appearance she bore in 1812. On July 9, 1898, the cruisers "Harvard" and "St. Louis" brought to Seavy's Island, part of the government reservation, the seven hundred Spanish sailors, including Admiral Cervera, who were captured at the Battle of Santiago. The camp at the site of the present Naval Prison under marine guard was in existence until September, when the steamer "City of Rome" carried the exiles back to Spain. On September 5, 1905, the "Treaty of Portsmouth," ending the Russo-Japanese War, was signed by the Plenipotentiaries of both Powers in the Equipment Building then just erected.

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